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CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE
OR
WORDS OF LOVING COUNSEL
AND SYMPATHY.







CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE.

• *Staphylococcus aureus*

• *Streptococcus pneumoniae*

• *Streptococcus pyogenes*

• *Streptococcus viridans*

• *Streptococcus faecalis*

• *Streptococcus lactis*

• *Streptococcus thermophilus*

• *Streptococcus salivarius*

• *Streptococcus mitis*

• *Streptococcus sanguis*

• *Streptococcus bovis*

• *Streptococcus faecalis*

• *Streptococcus lactis*

• *Streptococcus thermophilus*

• *Streptococcus salivarius*

• *Streptococcus mitis*

• *Streptococcus sanguis*

• *Streptococcus bovis*

• *Streptococcus faecalis*

• *Streptococcus lactis*

• *Streptococcus thermophilus*

• *Streptococcus salivarius*

• *Streptococcus mitis*

• *Streptococcus sanguis*

• *Streptococcus bovis*

• *Streptococcus faecalis*

• *Streptococcus lactis*

• *Streptococcus thermophilus*

• *Streptococcus salivarius*

• *Streptococcus mitis*

• *Streptococcus sanguis*

Christian Experience ;

OR,

WORDS OF LOVING COUNSEL AND
SYMPATHY.

BY

MRS. MARY WINSLOW.



Edited by her Son,

OCTAVIUS WINSLOW, D.D.

"She hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also."

ROM. xvi. 2.

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1868.

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PREFACE.

MRS. WINSLOW possessed a remarkably fertile, as a deeply sanctified, pen. It was emphatically the "pen of a ready writer," whose teachings seemed ever under the guiding hand of God's Spirit. In this, probably, lay her peculiar gift, and this defined her far-reaching sphere of usefulness. Her yet unpublished remains compose a large amount of material, capable of being moulded into varied forms of sacred instruction and beauty. "What shall be their disposal?" was a serious and responsible question. To destroy them appeared a sacrilege; entirely to withhold them from the Christian Church, a robbery. The present volume is, in a limited *measure*, a reply to this question.

It is composed of sacred and precious thoughts, culled from her extensive correspondence, bearing, as the occasion demanded, upon some of the most important and interesting topics of the believer's experience. In this department of Christian service she was eminently fitted, from her own personal and rich experience, her deep-toned spirituality, not less than by the holy and beautiful consistency of her religious life, to be "a succourer of many." The streams which flow through this unpretending little volume will, it is hoped, refresh and invigorate not a few of the Lord's people, whose souls, like Israel of old, are "much discouraged because of the way." The readings, though brief—and this will be a peculiar charm to many who cannot command *time or strength* for more lengthened teaching,—

will be found to embrace a wide range of topic. The anxious seeker will be led to Jesus—the feeble believer strengthened—the wanderer from the Saviour allured back—the ignorant mind instructed—the tried spirit comforted—the desponding heart cheered—the tempted soul succoured—the advanced believer aided,—and even the minister of Christ stimulated and encouraged,—it is humbly and prayerfully trusted, with the Divine blessing,—from a perusal of these unassuming pages. They are the breathings of one who dwelt much in the region of the cross, who often, to use her own expressive words, “took her walks alone,” who lived in close communion with God, and who came daily up out of the wilderness leaning in simple, calm faith, upon her Beloved. As such, it is hoped they will receive a welcome in many a Christian

home, and awaken a psalm of praise in many a believing heart. And to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, Israel's Triune, Covenant God, shall be ascribed all the glory.

BRIGHTON,

February, 1868.



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Christian Experience.

**Adversity the School of Love. Visits from Heaven.
Christ and the Believer Responsive.**

O my dove, that art in the clefts of the rock, in the secret places of the stairs, let me see thy countenance, let me hear thy voice ; for sweet is thy voice, and thy countenance is comely.—SONG OF SOL. ii. 14.

I AM sure if we wish to know much of the reality and worth of God's love, we must experience and feel real adversity. How precious is Jesus at such times, when all other love fades into nothing. Then His love dissolves the heart, softens, and wins it. At such seasons we feel we can but weep our thanks to God for this "Brother for adversity,"—born for *my* adversity, as if there were not

another being in the world who needed and felt it but myself! Such is Jesus to the sorrowful soul. In this way the believer can rejoice in tribulation—yea, and does rejoice; not because of the tribulation, but because of the matchless love of Christ manifested at such seasons. The Lord knows when to pay His loving visits. He knows how to time them—even when we *need* them. There are stolen visits from heaven to earth. No eye sees Him, nor ear hears Him, nor heart feels Him but the poor, tried, tempted soul. If ever sin appears most hateful that is the time. Who can withstand the love of Christ? How it humbles, and yet exalts; casts down, and yet uplifts. How it weans from earth and draws to heaven. Tears of joy and tears of sorrow flow together. Then does the believer feel that if he had a thousand hearts he could give them all to Christ; and that if it were possible, he would never, *no never*, sin against One so full of love and so beloved

again. There is a constant interchange of affection between the Lord and His people. The heart is opened, and all is told. Christ speaks, and the believer responds. All is love, nothing but love. No upbraidings from Him, and a full surrender of the whole heart to Him. May we not then exclaim,—“Blessed adversity, that unfolds such mighty blessings to the chief of sinners!”

Jesus, 'tis Thou :—O ! who can tell
Thy love unchanging, full and free ?
Or tell the riches of Thy grace,
Thou Brother for adversity ?

This is the reason why we are often tried and cast down, even to show us what is in the heart of God to us ward,—how much He loves us !



The Life of Faith Sweet. God's Goodness His Glory.

I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.—PSALM xxvii. 13.

THE sweetest life upon earth is a life of faith—constantly looking to Jesus for all we want. Then it is we grow in grace, and in the knowledge of God our Saviour. God permits a trial—perhaps a bitter one—to rouse our faith from its sleep, and to bring it into healthy and vigorous exercise. I thank God for the sharp trial of faith through which I have passed, and would not now, much as I suffered, have been without it, so much tenderness and wisdom, faithfulness and love, do I see mixed up with it ; and when all the goodness of a good and gracious God is unfolded to my view, I am ready to weep all the time,

and often do shed tears as I pass through the streets. It reminds me of Moses, who when he asked the Lord to show him His glory, the Lord said to him,—“I will make all My *goodness* pass before thee.” God’s *goodness* is His glorious perfection, and in *that* He does glory, and will cause us to glory too. And it is a blessing so to be placed, let the circumstance be what it may, as to have the goodness of God pass before our eyes. Who would not love this good God, so full of love, so full of tenderness, so full of compassion for poor sinners, that the feeblest, the vilest, may draw near to Him in Jesus, and bask in the sunshine of His love.



Readiness to Die.

An Assured Hope. Heavenly Emigration.

Prepare to meet thy God.—AMOS iv. 12.

THE pestilence is raging. Out of twenty-four cases, twenty have died. Truly we live in a dying world. Death is stalking about, cutting off those appointed to die, and the eternal world is peopling both with saints and sinners. Oh to be *quite sure* where we are to go when summoned by the pale Messenger to part with earth! May this be to you and to me the one thing: to be *quite* sure, to have no misgivings; to have the witness within us that we are in Christ, and Christ in us the hope of glory. The one business of our short and uncertain life should be, to secure the inheritance that is to last through the countless ages of a vast eternity. If we knew that we

were going to a distant land to take up our abode for life, and that an inheritance awaited us there, how anxious we should be to make all possible inquiry about the place, the manners of the people among whom we expected to dwell, and how little we should care about the place we were shortly to leave altogether. And yet how contrary to this is the case with many who profess to be going to a better and eternal world! How seldom is it thought of, when in a moment we may be ushered into the immediate presence of Him who is to be our Judge. Oh let us strive and pray that we might be helped to give up our whole minds to the things that make for our everlasting peace: a closer walk with Jesus—constant intercourse with Him who is our Life, and from whom we have even now, if we are truly His,—ETERNAL LIFE.




Satisfaction with God's Arrangement. Unclouded
Views of Glory. Heaven worth living for.

As for me, I will behold Thy face in righteousness ; I shall
be satisfied when I awake with Thy likeness.—PSALM
xvii. 15.

A GREAT deal of our happiness in this world is in *anticipation* ; and often when the thing really does take place, we find there is something which we did not calculate upon, which has marred it all. So I am brought to this conclusion,—that the Lord knows what is best for us, and it is our duty and privilege to bow submissively to His will, and to be thankful that He has undertaken for us all our journey through.

I often long to see Jesus and also heaven. Earth is a weary place to me, and heaven

put in possession of the inheritance prepared for it before the foundation of the world? — is gone. He did not know that he was in danger until the day he died; he seemed quite resigned. I do trust he is with Jesus. Oh what a God is ours! Even at the *eleventh* hour there is hope. Who would not be willing to make a full surrender of the heart to such a God: ready to pardon, ready to receive with open arms all that come to Him. How blind to turn a deaf ear to love so great, so undeserved. What could God do more than He has done, in giving His own dear Son to die for our sins? If every poor sinner knew as much as I do of the sweetness, the blessedness of sitting at the feet of Jesus, they would willingly give up everything this world calls good and great, for its enjoyment. All is dross when compared with this.



have with God my Father; and as a father
pitieth his children, so does He pity them
that fear and trust Him. Oh what a hope
is the Christian's, beaming with immortality.
Were it not for that *cold stream*, all, *all* would
be bright.



Good Works after, not before Salvation.
Immediate Glory.

Wherefore we labour that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of Him.—2 COR. v. 9.

How many there are who for years are trying to do good in every way to commend themselves to God: working for their salvation, instead of coming to Jesus just as they are—poor, blind, and naked, and casting themselves, as totally unable to help themselves, wholly upon His mercy, as able to save them without their work. Then will they find peace and joy in believing. Good works are the after-fruits of this salvation. The tree must be good before it can bear good fruit.

Would that all the world did but know the happiness of loving God, and of being loved

by Him! One moment spent in communion with Christ is worth a million of years spent in the pursuit and pleasures of this poor, dying, disappointing world. Oh to live for eternity, a glorious eternity! What madness not to be preparing for it. There is nothing under the heavens so important as to be ready for this. You may leave your home in health and in high spirits, in the anticipation of meeting dear friends, and in a few hours be ushered into the presence of the great Judge of heaven and earth, to be tried at His bar, and acquitted or condemned. But this is a subject ridiculed and slighted. Poor Miss—where is she now? She entered the train in full expectation of many years of health, wealth, and happiness in this world, and in a few hours was gone for ever! Try to live on earth as you expect to live in heaven. Walk holy and uprightly, just as if the Lord were with you, and in your midst. And is He not with us? "*Lo, I am with you alway.*"

**Our Cares the Lord's Care.
The Assurance of God's Love Sanctifying.**

Because ye belong to Christ.—MARK ix. 41.

IT is uncertain as yet how the matter will be settled, but it does not trouble me. I have placed it in the Lord's hands. I trust all will be arranged for our good and for His glory. The believer is not his own; we belong to Christ, and all that concerns us He will arrange in His own most loving way. What concerns us equally concerns Him. Why then should we be careful for anything? How close the connection between Christ and the saint, and yet how little do we enter into the blessedness of the relation! How lightly we think of it. How much happier should we be did we see the exalted state and the mighty pri-

vilege of a believer in Jesus. Despised and thought but little of by the world, and yet dear to Christ and beloved by God Himself. This, so far from creating pride, rather humbles and lays us low at His feet, while it dissolves the heart into deep contrition for sin. And shall we sin that grace may abound? God forbid! When the believer is brought to see that God is in every circumstance, small and great, connected with the saints, it contents and quiets the mind, and allays all that discomposed and worried it.



Faith Seeing the Departed.
Reunion. Jesus the Great Attraction of Heaven.

A little while, and ye shall not see Me : and again, a little while, and ye shall see Me : and, because I go to the Father.—JOHN xvi. 16.

I CANNOT for a moment put —— out of my mind. Nothing but the thought that she is now with Jesus, beholding Him whom she loved, can comfort at such times. It has lifted me up some feet above earth, and has given me sweet views of that heavenly place which Christ said He went to prepare for His people.

I suppose it is natural as we near the close of a long and weary journey, to have the mind more occupied with what, and with who, we are soon to meet, than with that which we

are leaving behind. This is, "*looking at the things which are not seen, and that are eternal.*" It would be strange were it not so. I have sometimes the sweetest anticipation of not only seeing Jesus, my best, my constant and faithful Friend, but of being united with those I dearly love, and who have out-run me in the race, and are there to welcome me home, and unite their song of praise with mine, to Him who has loved us and washed us from our sins in His own most precious blood. Is it any wonder that I wish all I love to come with me? God only knows how incessantly my prayers ascend, perfumed with the incense of the Saviour's merits, that they all may spend a glorious eternity together, not only in perfect happiness, but happiness that will increase throughout eternity, in proportion as our knowledge of God increases. Blessed hope of immortality! Let us strive to be here as much like what we shall be in heaven as possible.

I find moving about is more or less injurious to spirituality of mind ; it creates a wandering from better things, and contracts so much of earth. I want to have all my thoughts centred on Jesus : He is all and everything to my soul, and as I near my home in heaven, He grows more and more endeared, and I feel that heaven would be no heaven to me, were He not there. My thoughts follow — into that world unknown, whither she has entered. I seem never to have loved her as now—a glorified spirit, pure and holy, without one taint of sin, clothed in white raiment, which is the righteousness of saints ; how lovely she appears to me ! A few more steps, and I too am there,—*a sinner saved by grace.*



Love to the Saints. Only One Church.
Christian Experience. No Partitions in Heaven.

Ye are one in Christ Jesus.—GAL. iii. 28.

How full of Christ the heart of —— is. Oh that we all were more like him, or, rather, were more like Christ. Where I see the love of Christ most prevail in the heart, there I see love to the saints. Wherever we meet with one who has much of the image of Jesus, we shall find love to all who bear the same likeness prevailing over all bigotry. Let us beware of this evil, for I am sure God is displeased, and will show His displeasure in due time. Love beareth no ill to its neighbour, and love is the fulfilling of the law. God is love. The soul becomes barren and unfruitful in its absence, for the Spirit in His manifesta-

tion does not dwell where love is not the predominant feeling. In fact, where the Holy Spirit is, there will be love; and the manifest want of the grace is a proof that the Spirit of Christ is not there.

I see no other Church but the Church of Christ, that one Church of the living God, composed of all believers of whatever name. Heaven is an ocean of love. Blessed be God there are no *partition walls* there!



The Arm of Flesh. Faith Trusting God in the Dark.

Who is among you that feareth the Lord, that obeyeth the voice of His servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? Let him trust in the name of the Lord, and stay upon his God.—ISAIAH l. 10.

ARE we not more prone to rest in an arm of flesh than as Christians we ought to be? God is able to provide for us; but He will do it in His own way. His thoughts are not as our thoughts, nor are His ways as our ways. God will have us remember that we have to do with Him; and this we are ever prone to forget, to our cost and shame. How wonderful it is that we are slow to believe, after all that He has said to, and has done for, us. Faith has often sharp work, and is sometimes put to its wits end. We are often called to hope against hope, and to trust the Lord in

the dark, casting our burden upon Him, who is able to do more and far better than we can ask or think of. His name is Love to His people, and He cannot deny them any good thing. We are short-sighted, but God sees for us from the beginning to the end, so that we may safely put our hands in His, and let Him lead us through all the intricate maze of the wilderness, however dark and dreary it may be for us. We are to shut our eyes against *impossibilities*, and trust in the Lord, living upon Him moment by moment, and be more anxious for spiritual than for temporal blessings. Let us seek first the one, He will give all the rest most freely.



Preaching in Prayer.
Childlike Simplicity in Devotion.

Praying in the Holy Ghost.—JUDE 20.

I MUCH dislike *preaching in prayer*. And yet most ministers fall into this habit. If they would pray in the pulpit as they pray in their study, how much sweeter would it be—more simple and more spiritual. Prayer is the most holy exercise of the soul, and should be the pure breathing of the renewed heart in humble, earnest, supplication, as in the very presence of a holy God. And when the soul thus enters into the Divine presence and loses sight of the poor worms of the dust who are listening, there is no self-seeking, or wish to please the ear of man, but humbly to get the blessed ear of God Himself. I

know that this is a hard matter, but the more we strive for it the more the Lord the Spirit will aid us. We should come as a humble suppliant, a poor and needy beggar, nay, as a helpless child pleading in the simplest language at a Father's feet. This is prayer, pure prayer. We should endeavour to pray as if no one heard us but God. My opinion is that, both preaching and praying should be what the poorest might understand and feel, and at the same time meet the warmest desires and taste of the most spiritual and refined intellect. In expressing in prayer our own wants, we often express the wants of others. May the Lord bestow upon us as needed the grace and gift of His Holy Spirit, and anoint us richly for His own work !



The Flesh Resting in Hope. Jesus our Chief Joy.
Pleasing God rather than Man.

Before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.—HEBREWS xi. 5.

THE believer is rapidly hastening to his happy home. Oh, how we shall rejoice to meet each other then, and join our song of praise with those already around the throne, to Him who landed us there at last, where no sickness, nor sin, nor sorrow can ever come. Our poor diseased bodies will sleep quietly in the dust, watched over by One who has redeemed both body and soul, and has promised to raise us up again at the last day. For ever blessed be His name, for He has done great things for us, whereof we are glad. Is there not enough in Jesus to gladden our souls, and fill us with

holy love, even although we may be now passing through much tribulation on our way to the kingdom. ? Let patience have her perfect work ; and by looking continually to the Lord He can so mitigate our sufferings and make them such blessings to our souls that we shall see, even here, that it was good for us that we were afflicted. These are disguised blessings. O let us make the most of them now, for we shall have none hereafter. *Now* is the time to glorify Him in the furnace, who bore our sins in a hotter furnace than ever we could be called to pass through.

Is there not enough in Jesus to engage all our thoughts and all our hearts ? We love to talk of an absent friend who is dear to us, and what friend is there like Him, and should He not be dearer to us than the dearest object on earth ? It is that Friend that sticketh closer than a brother, and He is the Brother born for adversity. Let us not imagine that when things go smooth with us we are no

more to see tribulation, shall have no more need to call upon Him who has promised to deliver us in time of trouble. If we forget or neglect Him in time of prosperity, will He hear or answer us in adversity? Oh, may this base ingratitude be far from us! Let Him be our chief joy now! keeping very near to Him, and suffering no idol to come between our souls and Him, our best and dearest Friend.

When I have passed an hour in company with worldlings, and the precious Saviour has never been mentioned, I have felt very guilty before Him; and when upon my knees I have hid my face in shame, and still more so when He has condescended to seal a fresh pardon through the application of His precious blood by the power of the Holy Ghost. Oh, how little do the unconverted know of this heavenly, holy intercourse between a child of God and his Heavenly Father. Truly, "*the secret of the Lord is with them that fear*

Him." How differently the Lord Jesus looks upon the saints to what the world does: what the world despises He loves, and what the world loves God hates. Oh, have a heart right with God, studying more to please Him than to please the poor worm of the earth which is here to-day and to-morrow in eternity. Christ says to His people, "*Ye are not of the world, even as I am not of the world: therefore the world hateth you. But be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.*"



Ripening for Glory. Theoretical Religionists.

Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God which worketh in you to will and to do of His good pleasure.—PHIL. ii. 12, 13.

OUR bodies are travelling to the grave, but our souls are journeying to a better place, and therefore they are of the first and greatest importance. Are we ripening for our glorious inheritance? If that inheritance is *prepared* for us, surely we ought to be *preparing* for it. Does it not seem reasonable that it should be so? And yet is it not self-evident that we think more of the poor clay than of the immortal part it contains? Oh, let it not be so! "*Grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour.*" We may be assured that *there is a fitness* for heaven in the soul before

it arrives there. An unconverted person could not be happy in heaven, as he could not enter there. The child of God, redeemed with precious blood, has a meetness for heaven. Christ is in him the hope of glory. Let us seek above all things to be *quite sure* of heaven. "*Make your calling and election sure.*"

We meet occasionally with what may be termed *hear-say* Christians or professors. They have *heard* of Christ with the outward ear. They *assent* to the truths of the Bible. They *say* many prayers, and they *do* many things; and yet not one real step do they take on the road to heaven. They have heard of Jesus the Saviour, but they do not know Him. They have formed no acquaintance and hold no holy communion with Him, and have had no recognition from Him that they are His. The fact is, they have never felt themselves "*poor, blind, naked, and wretched*;"^a and not

^a Rev. iii. 17.

feeling themselves lost and undone, they have not sought Jesus as such: therefore they are but *theoretical* Christians. Generally at a dying hour such are left to grapple with death alone, and their false hopes leave them. O for a more sure and certain hope of an interest in Christ. The Holy Spirit can alone strip the sinner of all his doings and his works, and bring him to the feet of Jesus to sue for mercy and pardon.



Discriminating Preaching.
Good Words to a Minister of Christ.


If thou take forth the precious from the vile, thou shalt be
as my mouth.—JEREMIAH xv. 19.

YOUR isolated position, as a Christian minister, is peculiarly trying; such as will test your faith, and every grace of the Spirit in you. You have set out to serve a holy Saviour. You have constantly to look to Him, and to Him only; and I have no doubt your trial will be overruled for good to your soul. Exclude human help, and turn in upon Him who abounds in love towards you, and is willing to aid and comfort in every time of need and pressing necessity. Only keep an *open heart* with Jesus. You can want nothing to fit you for your great work but what Christ is ready

and willing to give you. Your great work is to win souls for Christ.

Draw a line between the saint and the sinner, and give each their portion in due season. Simple, plain, and searching truth, *applied* as you go on, and watered by your prayers, will, with God's blessing, do much good. Oh, how much wisdom and grace a minister of Christ requires, particularly one placed where you are with no help from the creature. But this is all the better for you no doubt. Perhaps I might go further and say, it is an honour put upon you to fight your way singlehanded, with none but Christ to help you, none but the Lord to stand by you. Who else would you have? He is all-sufficient, only trust in Him fully. The closer you keep to Christ the more you will be fit for your work. And *what* a work it is, to win souls, and by the aid of the Holy Spirit, fit them for ETERNITY! Only God the Holy Ghost can furnish you for this work. To

arouse, to allure, to reprove, to comfort, to build up the feeble ones of Christ's flock; to be in season and out of season, to throw every power of the mind and the body into the work, is of God alone. Immortal souls are committed to your trust. Think what an honour is put upon you. Be prepared for one thing,—that the world will not love you. The more you are like Christ the less will it regard you. But the servant must not expect to be what his Lord and Master was not. There are more for you than against you. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the One Triune Jehovah, are on your side. Fear not then. The more you feel your helplessness insufficiency, and nothingness, the better for you, and for the cause committed to your hands. May the Lord be with you, *bless* you, and make you a *blessing*.



Christian Assurance a Sanctifying Attainment.

Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.—2 COR. vii. 1.

IT is the opinion of some Christians that few attain to the real knowledge of their acceptance in Christ. But I must differ from them. The Word of God is full and powerful on this point. If we believe in Christ at all, we must believe in all that He says. We are not to believe one part and disbelieve another. "*He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself.*" This witness is the Holy Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are the children of God. What does Christ further say. "*Verily, verily I say unto you, He that heareth My word, and*

believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death unto life." Again, the Apostle says,—"*There is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus.*" Yes, this assurance of our acceptance is attainable, and every believer who walks in an uncertainty in this respect must necessarily walk much below his privileges. Faith is the great grace of the Holy Spirit, and the parent of all other graces. Without faith it is impossible to please God. Faith honours God, and He honours it, however small may be its degree. Paul says,—"*WE KNOW we have passed from death unto life.*" In approaching a holy God, I could not dare draw near but in Christ, His own beloved Son. And while I mourn over my unworthiness and vileness, yet coming in the worthiness of Christ, I can come boldly and in humble confidence for pardon, peace, and joy, making known to Him all my requests with thanksgiving. If there is anything that

will make a poor sinner lay low in self-abasement, abhorring his sin, and repenting in dust and ashes, it is a sense of sin pardoned and blotted out for ever from the book of God's remembrance. It never will, it never does, exalt a poor sinner. Will he not strive to be holy, aim to please Him who died and lives again for him? It is our high privilege, and one no believer should fall short of, to know his *oneness* with the Lord. There is no presumption in knowing that our sins are for ever forgiven, and shall never be chargeable upon us more, having already been charged upon Christ, who paid the whole debt, and bore the full penalty. The eternal Father will not exact payment a second time from the poor bankrupt who has nothing to pay. I truly think no believer will feel so much certainty as to his state, as when with a broken heart he comes to Jesus with the confession of sin. I think that the confession of sin (and when is there a day or an hour that we

sin not ?) is a most holy, sanctifying exercise of the soul: it subdues pride, promotes humility, and by the sprinkling of the blood, applied afresh by the Holy Ghost, purifies the conscience and sanctifies the heart. I believe that there are none who walk with God so closely, and who aim so much to please Him, as those who have the witness within that their sins are washed away in the blood of Jesus.



**The Believer Divinely Guided.
Waiting Patiently the Lord's Will.**

It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for
the salvation of the Lord.—LAM. iii. 26.

I DESIRE to acknowledge God in all my ways, seeing there is nothing that happens by chance here below, but is under the control of Him who is in all things, and is directing all things, from the fall of a sparrow to that of a monarch. I wish to yield myself to His wise and loving dispensations, however much they may be contrary to my own wishes, and believe that it is well. Times without number have I found it so. The Lord will not let me have my own way; and that is a great mercy, since He has undertaken to direct my steps. The pillar of cloud has in the present instance

moved a different way,—not my way, but God's way. We shall see the why and the wherefore sooner or later. Only watch the leadings and dealings of God's loving providence, and be content to follow where He leads, though it crosses our plans and projects. Be assured God knows best what is best for us. What poor creatures we are to judge for ourselves, who cannot see a step before us, and know not what may happen the next moment. It is a most blessed privilege to have a good and gracious God as our Guardian, Guide, Friend, and Redeemer, and to *know* it for ourselves. Happy is that people that is in such a case! Aim to set the Lord always before you. Let not this poor, vain world come between Him and your soul. Wait patiently the will of the Lord. "*I waited patiently for the Lord, and He inclined His ear unto me and heard my cry.*" What an encouraging passage to the tried believer! Be assured of this—that we know more of the

Lord's goodness, tenderness, and love, in *one trial* than in years of prosperity. We hear of Him by the hearing of the ear, but to know Him well we must be brought into close contact with Him; and when trials or crosses come, if we are His saints we then run into His bosom, and feel that nothing can harm us, and that all is well.



I am Saved. Jesus Speaking Peace.

Say unto my soul, I am thy Salvation.—PSALM xxxv. 3.

WHAT poor creatures we are, and what a mercy that we have the prospect of soon breathing a different atmosphere, always healthy, and invigorating, and life-giving to our souls. O how great the happiness of being able to look forward to this state of things with a degree of *certainty* that excludes all doubt. What peace and joy does this impart to the believing soul; better far than all the riches and honour of this poor dying world. Let us not rest until, at the feet of Jesus, we are enabled to say, "My soul is saved: God in Christ has spoken peace." Let us take nothing for granted. With respect to ETERNITY, the concerns of our soul should

be reduced to a moral *certainty*. We should be *quite sure*. And O when He speaks to us, we *know* it. There is no voice like the still small voice of the Spirit. Let us go again and again, until we get this blessing. Then we shall say, as the woman of Samaria, "*Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard Him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world.*" I think I could go upon my knees and entreat souls not to rest until they find Jesus.

We live in a dangerous world,—a world lying in wickedness; and when we remember what a treacherous foe dwells in our bosom, ever prompting us to evil, we need cry mightily to God to save us from Satan and from our own selves. I have lately had a very sweet humbling view of my own hateful self, and a soul-melting view of the wonderful and over-whelming goodness of God in loving and saving one so vile.

Ministerial Success dependent upon the Holy Spirit.

And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.—1 COR. ii. 4.

I AM thankful for the statement of truth—precious truth—which I heard yesterday. Go on to preach the pure, unadulterated Gospel of the blessed God, and He, in the riches of His grace, will follow it with His blessing to the poor and the needy. Pray much for the unction of the Spirit to rest upon your own soul, while you hold up Jesus to the people. Without the Holy Spirit's mighty power you can do nothing. All increase in the ministry depends upon this. Honour the Spirit, and He will honour you in your own soul and in the souls of others. To find your way to the

hearts of the people, you must be earnest that the Holy Ghost should brood over your own. Sinners are perishing all around: beings that must be eternally lost or eternally saved. The highest angel in heaven would feel honoured to be placed in the position you occupy. But, again I remind you that your ministrations depend for success upon the power of the Spirit. Feeling your utter helplessness, you will feel your dependence upon Him. Be earnest for His aid, and He will not fail you. The people need to be roused from the sleep of death. Have *you* any power to do this? No! "*It is the Spirit that quickeneth.*" How much heavenly wisdom you will need to meet the difficulties that face you, and to discharge the duties that devolve upon you! But Jesus stands ready to give you all you require. He has a rich abundance to bestow, knowing that without Him we can do nothing. If we wish to be rich in grace, we must first feel that we are poor in ourselves. Poor

indeed ! But O that boundless, matchless love of Christ to such as live upon, and go to, Him for all and everything. Aim for close communion with Him. To walk with God humbly and closely we must be much in the exercise of prayer, and not be satisfied without the enjoyment of His sensible presence. He does at times come down at special seasons to bless His children, to encourage and comfort their hearts. Such is the God we have to do with. What should we do, passing through this vale of tears, without a God to go to,—a Helper, a Protector, a Saviour? All this He is to you ; and the more you try Him, and the more frequently you go to Him, the more welcome you are, and the more you will be qualified for your great work, for *great* it is. Be faithful to poor dying sinners, and never speak peace to their souls without God has spoken it. Daub not with untempered mortar, thus helping a poor sinner to deceive himself. May God preach to you by the Holy

Spirit, while you are endeavouring in a humble way to preach to others, that thus the Word may go from your heart fresh with the dew of heaven to their hearts. O remember you are a steward, and must render an account of your stewardship. God grant that it may be with joy, and not with grief !



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Pastoral Counsels.
The Bible, and not the Church, our Guide.
Solemn Responsibility.

Woe is unto me, if I preach not the Gospel.—1 COR. ix. 16.

IN organizing your *prayer-meeting*, you will more easily find out the serious and inquiring; and before your Communion Service invite those who wish to commune to call upon you for conversation, that you may be the better able to know who are fit and who are not. Some clergymen meet such every week, and thus have a Church within a Church. Read the forty-fourth chapter of Ezekiel, from the sixth to the tenth verse. In it you will see that the Lord's ministers are instructed to separate the precious from the vile. Take the Bible, and not the Church, as your guide. Do the

Lord's work according to His own revealed will, and not according to the teaching of the Fathers. It is an immense evil of the present day, allowing the teaching of the Church and the customs of the Fathers to supersede that of the Bible, the precious Word of God Himself. Thus the creature is honoured, and God is dishonoured. I find that — refers wholly to the Church, and never once alludes to the Scriptures of truth, or to Christ for his reasons in going over to Rome. Would that all who are like him would act as honestly, and follow him! A snake in the grass is worse than an open enemy. O what need there is for faithful watchmen on the walls of Zion! Look round and see how few preach Christ and Him crucified. How can they stand at the bar of God, and give an account of their stewardship at the great day? One trembles for them. The Scriptures call upon men everywhere to repent and believe the Gospel; and

when this command is faithfully enforced, and the responsibility of the sinner is laid at his own door, every moment of persisted impenitence and unbelief does but increase his guilt. None but the Spirit of God can awaken a dead sinner, yet when these solemn truths are solemnly set before him, and the Lord follows them with conviction, he will soon fly to Him whom God hath exalted to give repentance and remission of sins.



. . .

Speaking for Jesus.
Tried Faith and its Blessings.

That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ. —1 PETER i. 7.

FOR a Christian not to have something to say for the Lord, indicates a low state of grace in his soul. Thus I may say that Jesus is most precious, and eternal things appear of greater importance to me than ever. Sin appears most hateful, and conformity to Christ above all things most desirable. I long and pant after holiness, and mourn that I am so vile. I dread more than ever to be left to myself; I feel that I can trust none but Christ. God's goodness and great tenderness melt me into deep contrition, and humble

me in the dust. I say often to myself, How can I sin against so good, so gracious, and loving a Father? How is it that the world hates me so little? Is it not because I am so much like itself, and so little like Christ? The world will love its own, but cannot love what is contrary to itself. "*The world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.*" O for a closer walk with God! How blessed it is to walk by faith: I am certain it is the right road to glory; no other would do us equal good. Faith in Jesus brings countless blessings to the soul, and glory to God the Father. No wonder then that He tries the little we have, that it may be increased and grow, that every other grace might grow with it. We never should value a throne of grace as we ought to do, if our faith were not tried. Let us hold fast our confidence in God, for He is our Friend, unchanging in all His purposes of the tenderest mercy and love. If He has given

His dear Son for us, will He, can He, withhold anything else that is really for our good? His love for us is as if He had not another in the whole universe to care for. Be of good courage, for Christ is yours, and all things are His.



**Deepening Views of Sin's exceeding Sinfulness.
The Necessity for Holy Retirement.**

Turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations
than these.—EZEK. viii. 15.

WHAT a privilege for such worms of the earth as we are, to have fellowship with the great and mighty God of the universe, and such sweet manner of access to the very heart of a precious Saviour. Let us never cease to pray and to praise Him too, for praise is comely for the upright. The Lord seems to be giving to — a fresh view of sin's sinfulness. How needful for ministers sometimes, as well as private Christians, to be taken from the work of sermonizing, preaching, and visiting, into privacy, as others, to converse more uninterruptedly with God. How

blessedly has He thus comforted me. I thought at the time that it was the enemy that was harassing me; I now believe that it was God Himself. God does thus ever work in His own way, and the more we feel the exceeding sinfulness of sin, and are led into a just view of our own most wretched helplessness, the more we shall value the great and glorious Atonement made for sin; so also in proportion Jesus will be precious.



Grateful Memories.
Holiness and Happiness Inseparable.

**Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright
in heart.—PSALM xcvi. 11.**

HOW gracious the Lord has been in raising you up, and restoring you to your usual health. O forget Him not in the days of health. Remember His loving kindness in the time of trouble, and praise and bless His holy name. O let us sometimes enter the abodes of wretchedness, sin, and sorrow, and then ask ourselves, Why are things different with us, for we are by nature no better than others? Ought it not to lay us low in the dust before God, and cause us to hate that which He hates, and pant more for complete conformity to His own holy likeness who

says, "*Be ye holy, for I am holy.*" I am more and more convinced every hour of my life, that to be *happy* we must be *holy*; and that in proportion as we attain to the image of Christ in all things, so we attain to real happiness. On the contrary, we are miserable and unhappy in proportion as we allow sin, any one sin, to remain unmortified and unconfessed before God. God is a jealous God, jealous over our hearts, for from thence genders all our misery and woe. O how necessary to watch over this deceitful inmate, and to try it continually by the truth, and so discover all its silent, deep-workings, and treachery against our peace and God's glory; detecting the enemy, and carrying it at once to the Physician who alone can heal and cure, and conquer in us and for us. The older I grow, and the nearer I get to glory, the more, it appears to me, I have to do with this hidden evil within—this treacherous foe. But oh the comfort I find in lying close to the

Fountain, and never suffering one enemy to escape. The blood that speaks pardon also sanctifies, heals, and cleanses. God be praised for this Fountain, and God forbid that we should presume upon it !



The Precept Observed: the Promise Fulfilled.

If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land.—ISAIAH i. 19.

WE must learn to live by faith: and if we have none, we must go to God for it, that it may be the means of gloryfying Him and supplying our wants. The Lord puts an honour upon us by so doing. He would have us watch His hand whose ear is ever open to our cry. "*This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.*" He who has given us His Son, will He withhold anything else? Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord. Let us walk in the *precept*, and believe in the *promise* "*Owe no man anything, but love one-another.*" O take God at His word, and

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literally believe in and act upon it. To Him go in all need and emergency, and He never will fail you. It pleases God that His people should obey Him as *children*, and He will not fail to do His part as a *Parent*. As a true minister of Christ, your preaching must be from the experience of the Holy Ghost working in your own soul, and the dispensations of God's providence in your life. God says to us, "*I will never leave thee nor forsake thee.*" God tries us to bring us to Himself. The world and all its honours, glory, and riches, are poor, wretched *nothings* in comparison with the glory that shall be revealed in all them that love the Lord's appearing.



Faithful and Solemn Admonitions to a Religious Professor.

I stand in doubt of you.—GAL. iv. 20.

How solemn, if after all your profession you have yet to take the *very first* step in the divine life! Examine yourself by the revealed Word of God, and see how matters stand between Him and your own soul. This is a mighty concern, and one not to be trifled with. It is not a mere *profession* that will stand at a dying hour; you must have something essentially more. God has to do with the HEART. "*I, the Lord, search the heart.*" If you have never yet felt yourself a lost sinner, then you have not sought Christ with your whole heart. "*Ye shall find Me when ye seek Me with your* WHOLE HEART." Trifle not with yourself, trifle not with an endless eternity, for God will not be trifled with.

The world is still in your heart, and after your idol you will go. What will it profit you if you gain the whole world and at last lose your own soul? A little space is yet allowed you; let me entreat you to make the best use of it to gain an interest in Christ. Why will ye die? Look fully at Christ; see what He suffered for sinners. Look at the wonderful goodness of God in giving His well-beloved Son that sinners might be saved from the wrath to come. O flee to Christ just as you are. Lose not a moment in settling this great concern. Keep your eye upon the *finished work* of Jesus, and aim to get a close acquaintance with Him. The more you know of the desperate wickedness of your own heart, the more you will love Christ, and see how suitable He is in every way to meet your lost condition. The more you hate yourself, the more you will love Jesus. Keep far from trifling religious professors, and be much in secret prayer.

**Worldly Ease, and the Society of the Unconverted,
serious Impediments to Spiritual Growth.**

Give me neither poverty nor riches ; feed me with food
convenient for me : lest I be full, and deny Thee, and say,
Who is the Lord ?—PROV. xxx. 8.

How plainly I see that ease and prosperity do not serve the children of God. Covet it not, I beseech you ! How the creature steals the heart's best affections from God ! But oh of this one thing I am assured,—that when that is the case, our good and wise Father knows how to deal with His own children. He breaks their cisterns and destroys their gourds. What a snare, too, to the believer is the society of the unregenerate. Our nature is so much more inclined to evil than to good, that we insensibly imbibe the poison,

and it contaminates our whole spiritual being. Who could be enclosed in a sepulchre with a putrid corpse, and not feel his health and strength and life decline? May the Lord in mercy preserve us! It does not require a large increase of earthly good to cause the heart to wander from God. Only let a religious professor sit down at his ease, and feel that he has need of nothing, and if he has never so little, *that* will do it. If ever Satan tempts one to covet riches, it is to help those who need it; and yet we have to mourn over *this* snare. But Jesus soon appears, and gives faith to resist the Wicked One; and then we see in a moment how we should mar the blessed work in the soul, and defeat the good their best Friend designs should issue out of poverty and trial. None but God Himself is a satisfying Portion. Earth, with all its promised comforts, cannot do it. Therefore the Apostle exhorts,—“*Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for*

He hath said, I will never leave thee nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my Helper, I will not fear what man shall do unto me."



The Sealing of the Spirit. Coming Empty to Christ.
Death written upon the Blessing.

Do not stop short of the best blessing God can give you, next to Jesus,—*the sealing of the Holy Ghost*, which is the earnest of our glorious inheritance above. If you could come just as you are, without trying to bring some price in your hand, you would soon attain what I believe you are longing for. You say you do not feel sin to be such a burden as you ought to feel it, and that that withholds the blessing. Well, even this darkness and dimness of the understanding you are to take to Jesus, since it is part of your sin, and must be brought to Him as such. Tell Him all you feel, and all you ought to feel, but do not feel. Come poor, wanting everything to recommend you to God, and

you will soon see the golden sceptre held out to you, and a hearty welcome to the very heart of Christ. It is good to come empty, that we might be *filled*; and to come, too, that we might be *emptied* of everything but Christ. "*The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.*"

How He cares for us, and yet tries our little faith. He writes death first upon the blessing He designs to give, and then when submission to His will is realized, the blessing is bestowed in a way and at a time we never expected. Such is God in all His dealings with us whom He is training for heaven. I am encouraged to make large drafts upon His goodness, and at times I feel that I cannot ask or expect too much, because it is for Jesus' sake He gives, and in Jesus' name I ask. "*Ask anything in My name, and I will do it.*" What more could He say to encourage us to come to Him in any circumstances, and obtain all in Christ that is truly for our

good and His glory? O how precious is the New Birth that gives a poor sinner in a moment emancipation from the dominion of sin and Satan, translating him into the kingdom of God's dear Son. Thus the eyes are opened to discern the things of the Spirit of God—the rich Atonement made for sinners, and the boundless love of a reconciled Father's heart. May God in mercy reveal these things to us, causing us to rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.



Completeness in Christ.

Prayer the Proper Study of God's Word.

Closeness of Walk, a Christian Evidence.

I THINK I feel ready at times to depart. Clothed in His righteousness, and washed in His blood, whatever may be our feelings at that eventful moment, the soul is safe—*safe* in Christ: He in us, and we in Him. One with Jesus. What a mighty privilege is this! To stand complete in Christ. How precious is His last prayer, as recorded in the seventeenth of John. "*The glory which Thou gavest Me I have given them, that they may be one, even as we are One: I in them, and they in Me, that they may be made perfect in Me; and that the world may know that Thou hast sent Me, and hast loved them, as Thou hast loved Me.*" I find when I uplift my heart to

God while reading His Word, it is sweetly profitable. It is then more abidingly fixed on the mind, and applied by the Spirit to the heart. How needful the power of the Holy Ghost to convert, to sanctify, and to lead us into the truth as it is in Jesus. The nearer we keep to Christ the better we shall be able to assure our own hearts, and to re-assure others of the Divine reality of His religion, and the only way to obtain it. A close walk with God, a continual application to the Fountain open for the uncleanness of sin, a living upon Jesus is religion in *reality*. If we *live* with a person we shall to a certainty know more of him than by merely paying now and then a formal visit. Thus it is with believers in their intercourse with God. We must *live* upon Him: have much to say to Him: have constant transactions with Him. This will produce a holy, child-like familiarity with One who alone can do us good here and hereafter. Let us avoid

worldly, trifling conversation: it deadens the spirituality of the soul, and unfits it for communion with God. Let us live as one who may at any moment be with Jesus: so acting and speaking as if He were at our side, and His eye upon us.



Holy Counsels on the Eve of Ordination.

Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them : for in doing this thou shalt both **save thyself**, and them that hear thee.—1 TIM. iv. 16.

TO-MORROW you are to be examined. I have lifted up my heart in prayer that, if it is not the Lord's will you should enter upon the all-important work of the ministry of the everlasting Gospel, He would hedge up your way; but, if it is, that He would carry you through, qualifying you for the glorious work, and greatly blessing you in it; enabling you to fulfil the great, the awful responsibility that will rest upon you, remembering the account you are to render at the great day when He shall summon the world to judgment. Oh that you may aim so to serve and honour

Him as then to hear the blessed words :
" *Well done, good and faithful servant : thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things ; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.*" Remember Solomon's petition ; God answered it, and gave him *more* than he asked for. You, too, will need wisdom and great grace. If He gives this He will also add all else that is truly needful. If you desire to be a useful minister you must be a close student of your Bible, avoiding all reading and society calculated to deaden your spirituality and draw your thoughts and heart from your work. If it is a work God has called you to, think how needful to let everything else go but that ; giving all your mind, and all your heart, and all your attention to that work. And *what* a work ! To win souls to Christ, to watch over them when they are won : to follow, to restore, to rebuke with all long suffering patience, and to feed Christ's sheep and

lamb. And with what food will you feed them? The Chief Shepherd must give it to you out of His own Word, and this must be studied with much prayer, taking it yourself first, feeding upon Christ, and thus setting Him forth as the Bread of Life. Preach Jesus and Him crucified. If you study closely and prayerfully your precious Bible, you will not want other men's sermons. God's own Word, through the teaching of the Eternal Spirit, being in you as a well of water springing up. Precious Jesus! What a mercy to know, and what a privilege to have communion with Thee! Angels might envy a poor heart-broken sinner at the feet of Jesus: His loving eye and His gracious heart bent upon such an one.



**No Sickness or Death in Heaven. One with Christ.
Dwelling in the heart of God.**

And the inhabitant shall not say, I am sick ; the people that dwell therein shall be forgiven their iniquity.—Is. xxxiii. 24.

WE are passing into a blessed world, where the inhabitant shall no more say, I am sick ; and into which death can never enter. And while here, we have a God to go to who has promised to land us safely at last where we shall have done with sin and sorrow for ever. How this blessed hope revives our often drooping spirits. The Lord knows what we require every step we take through this poor, trying, wilderness world, and stands ready to supply our need small and great. He is concerned in all that concerns us. Never let us lose sight of that holy and most blessed

truth, that Jesus and we are ONE, never to be separated here or hereafter. Let it be our daily habit to cast our *care* upon Him who *careth* for us. Our aim must be *onward*. We must *advance*; growing in a better acquaintance with our own souls, as poor and needy; and with Christ, who is all and everything to us, for in Him all fulness dwells, and that fulness is for us. He is our rich Store-house. We need only to go and tell Him, and His heart is open to us in a moment. All hearts are in His hands, and if our ways please Him He can make our bitterest enemies to be at peace with us. Such is the Son of God to us. Let us live upon Him, make trial of Him; go to Him constantly. We shall find His ear open to our faintest whisper, for we dwell in the very heart of God Himself. Let us not live below the privileges of our high calling.

The Privilege of Prayer.
God's Dealings Designed to Increase our Knowledge
of Himself.
Predestination a Holy and Comforting Truth.

If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God.—JOHN vii. 17.

GOD be praised for a throne of grace: this we are privileged to have. Let us make use of it, for God has given it for this express purpose. He sends trials and tribulation to drive us to it, that we might know what a God of love He is to us, and that not only our judgment should be convinced of this, but that our unbelieving hearts should be tenderly affected by it. God designs that we should know and love Him better; and all His good and wise providences are to accomplish this

great end, that we might know what an all-powerful Friend we have in heaven. Regard His present dealings with you as a rich proof of His undying love. He maketh poor that He might enrich: He takes away the uncertain riches of earth to give the true riches of heaven. The Lord wants you to understand Him better, to be better acquainted with His ways, and to know to a certainty that He and you are *one*, and therefore He wishes you to be careful for nothing, but to rely upon His care. In fact, He desires that you shall live by faith on Himself; and if you will take the testimony of one who has long been travelling that way, it is the *happiest* and the *holiest* life that mortal man can live.

There is no *chance* with God's events. All is ordered by Himself before we had existence. Every event, small and great, is pre-determined and provided for. Ask for faith to enter into the full belief of this most precious truth, and the mind is at once at ease. God knows all,

is doing all, and will do all things well for you. He makes use of what instruments He pleases to accomplish His purposes. Judas was foreordained to betray Christ, and He did it. God in all this is not the Author of sin. God forbid! But if He leaves the creature for a moment to itself, sin at once takes full possession of the man, although he is not left without a *conscience*, which, if heeded, might prevent its commission. But I am touching upon a difficult subject, of which we know but little until we get to glory, and then will all things be made plain to us. Now we see through a glass darkly, *then* we shall see as we are seen, and know as we are known. Now we must take God at His word, believing ALL that He says; and when faith is weak, repair to Him for its strength and increase, and He will do it. Faith is increased by exercising what we have. Therefore the Lord sends crosses, losses, and trials. Could we look into God's heart, and see how precious

we were to Him, and how truly He is near to us, watching over us, directing all things for our good and His glory, how would our present grievances vanish from our minds, and we sit as beloved children at the feet of Jesus. O that we had less infidelity in our poor, fallen natures: or rather, that it were kept more under the power of Divine grace.



Christian Love. Christ our Friend.
Intimacy with, and Conformity to, Him.

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are My friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.—JOHN xv. 13, 14.

CHRISTIAN love is sweet: it is the love of Christ shed abroad in our hearts, flowing out towards those who are members of the one body of which He is the Head. Blessed be the Lord for His abundant goodness in calling us, that we might live *for* Him here, and *with* Him hereafter. In a little while and we pass away; then let us aim to be more like Him, and to show to others by our love, that there is a blessed reality in the religion of Christ, thus being witnesses for God on the earth. What an honour put upon poor worms.

May the Lord increase our faith, and conform us more to His own image. In all our concerns He is concerned, seeing that we are one. If we lose sight of this oneness, let us betake ourselves to Him, until we realize it again. The Lord loves our importunity, and perhaps, tries our faith on this point in order to increase our earnestness and to unfold His faithfulness. In this may we get to know more and more of the character of God as unfolded in Christ Jesus. He is all that He says He is: only let us believe it. The more we try Him the better we shall be acquainted with Him. This is one reason of all our trials, in mind, body, and estate. We should but partially know the value of such a Almighty Friend if He did not place us in such circumstances as tried Him. He often impoverishes that He might enrich us: making us sick in body to give us more health of soul; brings us down that He might raise us up. In all these things He will have us to *know* Him.

If our walk is distant, He will send a messenger after us to bring us nearer to Himself. O to watch the providential dealings of God, for He is in all and everything that concerns His people. Rejoice in this blessed truth.

Is there not enough in Jesus to engage all our thoughts and all our hearts? We love to talk of an absent friend who is dear to us. And what Friend is there like this? And should He not be dearer to us than the dearest object on earth? He is that Friend that sticketh closer than a brother, and is the Brother born for adversity.



The Widow Comforted. God the Orphan's Father.

Leave thy fatherless children, I will preserve them alive ; and
let thy widows trust in Me.—JER. xlix. 11.

OH the comfort of being one with Jesus, who is the widow's Husband and the Father of the fatherless! Take Him now just as He is, and He will comfort your widowed heart, draw you sensibly near to Himself, and sooth your bereaved spirit as the dearest earthly friend could not. You need care for nothing now, since God is the Father of the orphan, to whom you may go with all your anxieties and concerns on their account. Fain would I comfort you with the comfort wherewith *I* have been comforted of God. God is love, all love, His heart is an ocean of love. One sigh, one look, the faintest desire after Jesus

and His salvation, based upon a believing acceptance of the promise, "*Him that cometh unto Me I will in no wise cast out,*" is quite enough to comfort us, and to give the hope of meeting where there is no separation throughout an endless eternity. God be praised for the hope He has given us, and for the earnest in our own souls of the glory that awaits us in a blessed hereafter. Cheer up. "*A Father of the Fatherless, and a Judge of the widow is God in His holy habitation.*"



**Come Up Hither. Manifestations of Christ.
Honouring the Spirit.**

It is all well. We are not here for ever, and better things await the Christian in a glorious hereafter. We are travelling homeward; this is not our rest; a better is prepared for us. I feel like a bird of passage standing between time and eternity and ready to launch away at a moment's notice of the summons from above: "*Come up hither.*" How the love of Jesus shed abroad in the heart fills it with all holy obedience, and softens down all and everything that would separate the one family of God; forms and ceremonies vanish away, and the little diversified outward usages make no difference between those who are all one in Christ. We then stand complete in God as one family, journeying home to the place

which Jesus has gone to prepare for us, and for all those dear ones who have gone before. I seem at times and in a measure to realize it. O the joy of eternal communion with the Saviour and with all we have here loved! May the good work go on until all we love shall be enclosed within the cloud of mercy, and their hearts be filled with love and adoring gratitude to the God who sent it! How strange that any one in their senses should leave this great work of salvation to a dying hour; what a snare is this world to us, and a still greater one to the unconverted. But O how great the condescension of Jesus to those whose hearts He inclines to seek Him. Let us never be satisfied without His manifestation to us. I could not live a day without an interview with Him whom my soul loveth. Why does the Lord often place His beloved ones in such peculiar positions of trial? that they might be brought to live in more childlike faith upon Himself. Every fresh trial of faith brings

glory to God. In this way He educates His elect people for heaven. How great the power of prayer when we come in the name of Jesus. It is irresistible!

An experienced Christian taught and led by the Holy Spirit is a living wonder to the angels in heaven. They look, they wonder, they love, and they stand ready, obey God, and succour the heirs of glory in all the events of their pilgrimage here. May the Lord, by the descent of the Holy Spirit, fill our hearts, and His own sanctuary, with His sensible, life-giving presence: then will sinners be converted, the saints sanctified, and all feel that God was with them of a truth. Not until the Spirit is more honoured will this be the case.



The Reunion in Glory.

Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named.—
EPHES. iii. 15.

TIME is vividly drawing on; but I can truly say that the Lord in His matchless love makes up for all deficiencies. He is the Chief of ten thousand, and the altogether lovely. Having Him we have all things we can desire here, and a good hope of eternal life hereafter. I sometimes feel as if the light were clearer; and occasionally a little glimpse is given of the invisible world—the heaven that awaits the believer; so that I could shout aloud, “it is all blessedly true: only believe!” Is it not delightful to think of our happy, joyful meeting with those we love? O the precious gathering of heaven! Let us pray to be as much as

possible like what we shall be when we shall be all one. But it is pleasant to meet with so many who love the Lord, and who are traveling the same road, to the same place, and with whom we expect to dwell for ever.



Conversion the First Step to Glory.
No Worthiness Required in the Sinner. We Part on
Earth to Meet in Heaven.

Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.—MATT. xviii. 3.

CONVERSION is the first step to the land of glory. We shall never go to Jesus until we feel, as is so often confessed in the Church Service, that we are “miserable sinners,” lost and undone in ourselves, conscious that we can never make ourselves better, or mend our ways. When we thus feel in reality our helplessness, and that we can *do nothing*, then we run to Jesus, that He may do all for us.

Once I tried my best to do all that was right and proper; but finding that I made no headway towards heaven, and that I was still a sinner, do what I would, I then went

in all my wretched and total helplessness to Jesus, and told Him I had no goodness in myself, and no work to bring in my hand. It was then He spoke peace to my weary soul—peace in believing—and filled me with joy. I shall not forget the happiness of that hour through eternity. It was a passing from death unto life, the first dawns of that spiritual life that shall never cease. O how willing He still is to receive every poor sinner that comes to Him, promising that He will cast out none who come. Cultivate holy and constant intercourse with Jesus, God's beloved Son, and yet bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh. The oftener we go to Him the more welcome we are. He will never weary of our requests. Keep close to Christ. This world is not worth a thought. All is passing away, but a glorious world awaits us, and, oh—

What must it be to be there !

Our poor bodies have always a leaning

towards their last home on earth; but the joy, when faith is conscious of the glorious inheritance that awaits us, outweighs all that creates a sigh at parting here. We part to meet again, to part no more for ever. I would not be without this hope for millions of worlds. I feel the old house is being taken down little and by little, and I stand astonished, considering the storms and tempests that have assailed it, that it has continued so long. But now I have a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. And then, first of all, I shall meet with the Saviour of poor sinners, even Jesus Christ, who suffered, bled, and died that we should no more die for ever; and then I shall meet with so many that I have loved and who are gone before. Let us then live like one whose home is not here in a wilderness, but who is travelling day by day to a better and more glorious inheritance above, which is to last through the countless ages of a vast and endless eternity.

Christ Our Physician.

More Fruit. Holiness the Result of Discipline.

Every branch that beareth fruit, He purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.—JOHN xv. 2.

WE need our Divine Physician at all times, for He alone who casteth down can lift up; and He it is who has engaged to heal all our diseases and cure all our infirmities, body, soul, and spirit. Is it not a great grief that through unbelief and the sensuality of our hearts, we so little apply to, and depend upon, the fulfilment of His own Word? We too much take the Word of God as a nominal thing, and seldom in precious faith act upon it. For this very thing the Lord who loves us tries us. We bring forth so little fruit to His glory that He sees it needful to discipline the tree, that it may bring forth more fruit.

He looks into our hearts and sees much coldness, worldliness, and cleaving to the creature, instead of cleaving to Him ; much spiritual barrenness, slighting of the Holy Spirit, and but little love. And this causes Him, for our soul's sake and our best interests, to lay His gentle hand upon us. Never does He love us better than when He brings us under the rod of the covenant, and there deals with us in a way that proves to us what He is. What do we not owe to His unceasing love and watchful providence? He has loved us with an everlasting love, and with loving-kindness has drawn us to Himself. That love to us can never cease, for like Himself it is everlasting and unchangeable. There is no such thing as separation from Jesus of one for whom He died. We are one with Him on earth, and will be one with Him in heaven. He is concerned in all that concerns us. Our illnesses are sent in love to our souls, to draw us nearer Himself, and to conform us to His

likeness, and we shall praise Him for them through eternity. Be not surprised, then, that He tries the faith He gives; but be of good courage, and go to Him continually, seeking that the trial may be abundantly sanctified to your soul's prosperity, and that His own image in you might be more manifest to all around you. In the sealing of the Spirit the image of Christ is stamped upon the soul. But this image is often dimmed by the flesh and the world, and it needs to be burnished and renewed by the same Spirit.



Fidelity to Souls. Earnestness in Religion.

When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die ; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life ; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity ; but his blood will I require at thine hand.—EZEK. iii. 18.

BE faithful to poor dying souls. Do the work of the Lord Jesus from the heart. Be careful to warn those that are out of the way. Suffer not one to say, "You knew I was not right, and yet you spoke not a word to my poor soul, to warn me of my awful doom!" Faithfulness to those whom one fears to offend is one of our great trials ; and yet what an awful delusion, that one would rather let them sink into eternal woe than speak a word we fear would grieve them ! Shall we not be ashamed, if shame could exist in heaven, for

this our great sin? And would they not, if they could, upbraid us bitterly for our cruelty to their undying souls, now for ever separated from us and happiness? Oh pray much for an upright, fearless spirit, and aim to do the work of the Lord faithfully. Think of the crown of glory prepared for the "*good soldier*," and of the "*well done!*" that awaits the faithful servant. I meet with so few who seem to be in right down *earnest* in the holy, heavenly warfare; and yet what on earth can compare with its vast importance? A true soldier in the eventful battle may be enfeebled by long exhaustion, but the Captain of his salvation is no hard Master, and has prepared a hospital for the wounded, and a resting place for the weary. O what will heaven be! There, and there only, will be the continued emptying and the filling again the renewed vessels of mercy. I have just visited a young man in a decline, who evidently knows nothing beyond going to Church and partaking of

the sacrament. He has expressed nothing of a broken heart and of a contrite spirit, and has never in all his life wept before God for sin. He knows *nothing* of sin. O what hard work it is to convince such! It is like stemming wind and tide. I think I know a little how to deal with a Christian in encouraging him onward, but I am no hand in convincing a poor, lost sinner. I must leave that to others. I always come away discouraged both with them and myself.



**Talking of Jesus. All Events in the Covenant.
Obedience to Christ.**

Did not our hearts burn within us, whilst He talked with us
by the way, and while He opened to us the Scripture?—
LUKE xxiv. 32.

COME and let us talk of Him we love, until
He draws near and travels with us. O what
a Companion is Jesus in our journeying
through a wilderness world, full of beasts of
prey and all manner of evil. But we shall
soon see Him. Then let us keep our gar-
ments unspotted from the world, walking in
holy, sweet obedience to His commands.
What an unchanging Friend is Christ to us;
for though He chastens, yet it is all in love,
that we might know Him better, and give
Him our heart's warmest affections. I believe
that everything that has happened to us, or

ever will happen, is in the covenant ordered in all things and sure. I believe that every step we take is appointed by Him who loved us, lived for us, died and rose again for us, and who will come again and receive us to Himself, putting us in full possession of that glorious inheritance which He has gone to prepare for us. It is but a little while that we have to show our love, by walking in holy obedience to His commands. One of the last which Jesus enjoined before He left this lower world to take possession of a better for us, was, "*Go ye therefore and teach all nations* (make disciples or Christians of all nations); *baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.*" And again: "*He that believeth, and is baptized, shall be saved.*" What command can be more positive than this? O if we truly love the Lord let us prove it by unreserved obedience, and call it not a cross, but an act of holy, child-like surrender to His own blessed will.

Let us meet Him as *obedient* children, following joyfully the example He Himself set us, and deem it an honour so to do. In a little while and we shall see Him. Let this thought be ever present with us, animating our spirits and urging us forward in our Christian race, and so running that we may obtain.



**No Concealments from God. The Soul Lost or Saved.
The Honour of Winning a Soul to Christ.**

Search me, O God, and know my heart : try me, and know
my thoughts : and see if there be any wicked way in
me, and lead me in the way everlasting.—PSALM cxxxix.
23, 24.

WHAT an unspeakable comfort to know that the Lord permits us to draw near always with an open, undisguised heart. We should have no concealments from Him. Vile as I often feel myself, and unworthy of the least mercy that falls from His hands, yet I rejoice that He sees me just as I am. Nothing would I conceal from Him if I could. An open heart, humble and contrite, is what the Lord will accept. My happiest seasons are when He lifts upon me the light of His countenance,—when beholding myself a poor, wretched sinner, yet saved and beloved of God; these sea-

sons are worth millions of worlds. A broken heart at the feet of Jesus, weeping over sin, sin for ever pardoned.—O that we may know the blessed experience of this. I wish to know about your soul's concerns, the most important of all concerns. Everything else is less than nothing. A soul lost or saved is more to be thought of than ten thousand worlds, could we possess them all. And yet how little is it thought of. The worldling lives and dies, and is soon forgotten. But where is he? what his fate? whither gone? The Bible forbids us to think that he has ceased to be. No! He still lives on: heaven or hell his condition for ever. O that these things may be ever present with us. Conversion is the last thing an immortal being thinks of, until awakened out of his sleep by the Holy Ghost. To preach the Gospel of Christ to such is a great and distinguishing mercy: an honour of no small magnitude put upon a poor worm of the earth.

Sanctified Sickness, better than Unsanctified Health.

Remarks of Dr. Low.

**Watchfulness against the deadening of Spiritual
Life in the Soul.**

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper
and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.—3 JOHN 2.

I FEEL for you in your present state of health, laid aside from your delightful work. But Dr. Low says, "The spiritual improvement of imperfect health is preferable to unsanctified vigour." "I see now," he adds, "the difficulty, importance, and desirableness of a life of true faith, and of intimate, assured, intercourse with the living God, in comparison of which every thing under the canopy of heaven is low and dim. It is the presence and mighty operation of God Himself which alone can

keep the heart right in any situation. It is no natural thing for us to set the face of the soul truly towards God, and to keep close to the spiritual seeking of Him, concerning which He that cannot lie has promised that it shall not be in vain. I am in all places astonished at the boldness with which hollow delusion in religion is exhibited, and the wonderful, marvellous cordiality with which it is welcomed. But sometimes I am raised on high to the throne and tribunal of Jehovah, from whence the deceiver and the deceived (with all their passing pomp and triumph) are viewed with just disdain. How mysterious, and yet how true is God's marvellous light; and how deep-felt in the soul must its beams be, in order to our solid establishment in the love of God, and our preparation for the nearest approach of eternity."

These are just and important remarks. May we pray over them. Everything that helps us onward and upward is something on

our way heavenward and Godward. Let us not be loiterers in our heavenly course, but act as respects our eternal happiness as we would act were we the heirs of an earthly inheritance, or striving for a temporal crown. How true is it that the children of this world are wiser in their generation than the children of light! We should carefully avoid everything that deadens the life of God in the soul, such as light and trifling conversation with worldly companions and the unconverted. Indulging the flesh in this way we shall be sure losers in our own souls, God will be dishonoured, and the Spirit grieved. But precious prayer—a holy thought of God—what true happiness, and yet what self-loathing it imparts. We have need, too, to watch against formality in prayer. It is the bane of spirituality. A cold form of prayer *said*, not felt, with which the heart has had nothing to do, is an abomination in the sight of a holy, heart-searching God. The real

Christian should never rise from his knees satisfied unless he feels he has had the ear of God, and a response from his heart. *This* is holy communion. We shall have it in perfection in heaven, but we may experience a foretaste of it even here on earth.



Gratitude for Mercies Received.
The Confession of Sin. Atoning Blood Applied.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits :
who forgiveth all thine iniquities ; who healeth all thy
diseases ; who redeemeth thy life from destruction ; who
crowneth thee with loving-kindness and tender mercies.—
PSALM ciii. 2, 3, 4.

HOW gracious the Lord has been to you in raising you up, and in restoring you to your usual health. O forget Him not in the days of health, and praise and bless His holy name. Could we but sometimes enter the abodes of wretchedness, sin and sorrow, and then ask ourselves, Why are things different with us, for we by nature are no better than they? would it not lay us in the dust before God, and cause us to hate that which He hates, and to pant more than ever for complete con-

formity to His own lovely likeness, who says, "*Be ye holy, for I am holy*" ? I am more and more convinced, that to be *happy* we must be *holy*; and that in proportion as we attain to the image of Christ in all things, so we attain to real happiness; and on the contrary, more miserable and unhappy in proportion as we allow sin, any one sin, to remain unconfessed and unmortified before God. God is a jealous God, jealous 'of our hearts, for from thence genders all our own misery and woe. How needful to watch over this dreadful inmate, and to try it continually by the truth, and to discover all its deep, silent working and treachery against our peace and God's glory: detecting the evil, and carrying it at once to the Physician who alone can conquer and heal. The nearer I get to glory the more it appears to me I have to do with this hidden evil within, this treacherous foe. But O the comfort I find in lying close to the Fountain, never suffering one sin to escape, but taking

it at once to Jesus! The blood that supplies pardon also cleanses and sanctifies. God be praised for this Fountain, and God forbid we should presume upon it!



The Lord our best Guide.
Answers to Prayer Delayed, but not Denied.
The Divine Glory our first Object.

I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not ; I will lead them in paths that they have not known : I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them. —
—ISAIAH xlii. 16.

THE Lord is directing all our concerns better than we can ourselves, for He sees the end from the beginning, while we see not a step before us. And yet our folly would often presume to dictate to Him what would be the best way to take with us ; and thus how soon we should ruin ourselves altogether. Be patient, and put your trust in the Lord your God, the living God. We need not fear that our best Friend can ever die. He has promised

never to leave nor forsake us. What are all earthly friends when compared to that precious Friend that sticketh closer than a brother? O did He not what would become of us! Blessed be God for the gift of His beloved Son to die for sinners. I should be for ever lost did not His blood cleanse from *all* sin. Look to Him continually, and although the answer tarry, it will not fail, but will come just at the right time. Only seek His glory first in all you do and say, and He will not withhold that which will really be for your good. Faith must be tried, and the more it is tried the more it grows, and the more we know of God, not only what He is in Himself, but what He is to us as a reconciled Father.



Resting in God's Love.
The Giver forgotten in the Gift. Christ our
Chief Beloved.

Whom have I in heaven but Thee? and who is there upon
earth that I desire beside Thee?—PSALM lxxiii. 25.

THE Lord has indeed dealt mercifully and kindly towards you. I see His hand, and am encouraged to pray on and to look upwards, for my best Friend, and yours too, is still at the right hand of God. Job says, "*I know that Thou canst do everything.*" Thus let us look to, and live upon, Him for all things, so shall we glorify God. O that we may remember that this is not our rest, that a higher is prepared for them who love Him. Let us not take up our rest in creature love, —reposing no where but in the boundles, un-

changing love of God in Christ Jesus. There is danger here. Forget not the Giver in gift. This was my great sin, for which in His wisdom and love, chastened me, and wrote me a widow indeed. Nevertheless my soul acquiesces in all His dispensations however painful and trying, seeing that all have worked together for my good. Keep far from this snare, and follow hard after the Lord. Pause not until you can truly "*My Beloved is mine, and I am His.*" To know Him is to love Him; and for this hinderances must be put away. The work is passing. Let your heart be above, and all you do manifest that you are a subject of that kingdom which is not of this world, that Christ may be honoured in and by



Walking in the Fear of God. The Still, Small Voice.
Sensibility flowing from a sense of Pardon.

There is forgiveness with Thee, that Thou mayest be feared.
—PSALM cxxx. 4.

WHAT a high privilege it is to walk in *the fear of God* all the day long. And not only in the fear of God, but also in the love of the Spirit. This is the holy, filial fear of a loving Father, whom once we knew not; but now knowing Him, reconciled through the precious blood of His own Son, as His beloved and adopted children. What a privilege, I say, to walk before Him in this loving fear. What a privilege, too, to have the ear of God, in faith to listen to the still, small voice, conscious of an echo within our souls! Is not this a mighty privilege? What is the wealth and pageantry

of this world in comparison with five minutes communion with this holy and great God, manifesting Himself in the face of JEHOVAH JESUS? This is our privilege: may we enjoy it every day, and all the day long. What could we do in this wilderness world, beset with manifold temptations within and without, had we not a God to go to: Jesus an ever-present Help? Let us suffer no distance between us and our dearest and best Friend. He has undertaken for us in all things: our Helper in little matters as in great ones. No one on earth, however dear, can take His place. We want Him as our Counsellor and Guide, our Protector and Deliverer. How needful, then, and how sweet, to be ever sitting at His feet, looking up and meeting His loving eye, as it looks down upon us. Jesus indeed is very precious. Everything else sinks into its native nothingness when compared with Him. The more we see the matchless, boundless love of Christ, the more we lie under a sense

of our wretched deformity in the dust of self-abasement before Him. But O the love springing from a sense of free pardon and full acceptance in Him, is often overpowering, and produces bitter tears, yet mixed with so much that is sweet.



The House of Mourning, a Home of Joy.
Happiness Increasing with Eternity.
A Voice from Heaven.

Your sorrow shall be turned into joy.—JOHN xvi. 20.

AND now you are a house of *mourning*. But if the dear parent is safely landed, blessedly housed in the mansions long prepared for her, should it not be also a home of *rejoicing*? At home with God: freed from all pain, sorrow, and sin for ever. Heaven is a place of the most exalted and perfect enjoyment, and the presence of Jesus makes it all that an immortal soul can desire. This happiness will be increasing throughout eternity. As our knowledge of God increases, so our love and happiness will increase with it, and our souls, more and more expanded and capaci-

tated, will receive and enjoy it in its fullest sense. Oh were our faith but stronger, we should clap our hands when our dear ones are taken home, and say with Mrs. Graham, "*I wish you joy!*" The way dear — was taken is a cause of much thankfulness. No long, lingering illness: but tenderly, gently the Lord dealt with her. She is but gone a little before us, and seems to say, "Follow me. Be not tardy in the race. Keep your eye upon Jesus. Walk humbly, closely with Him; and look up to God as a Father to the fatherless, the orphan's Guide and Protector."



All Things for the Best.
Suffering Alleviated by Prayer. Christ's Kingdom
Within the Heart.

We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.—ROM. viii. 28.

WHAT an unspeakable mercy that all our concerns are in the hands of Him who so loves us as to cause all (the bitter and the sweet) to work together for our good and His glory. Blessed God! how I adore Thee for this, with heart filled with joy and eyes with tears. Do you not love Him better and better every day? Such a Saviour of poor sinners: such a Friend of the friendless, and a Father of the fatherless: so kind and gentle, tender and sympathizing! When your pain returns, then lift up your heart to Jesus.

He will either take it away, or give you patience to bear it. Does He not say, "*Ask anything in My name, and I will do it.*" Thus may we live upon Him. He is your Saviour God, and is able to do whatever you call upon Him for. You cannot try Him too often. He sends trials that we might try Him and praise His faithfulness. How little we think of the mighty work carrying on in the soul of the believer. "*The Kingdom of God is within you,*" says Christ. Jesus sits as a King there, subduing the evil that abounds in our fallen nature, enabling us, by faith in Himself, to overcome all our foes within and without. Faith is as much the gift of God as Christ is His gift. All is given freely and fully. We come needy and helpless, and receive all from Him. O the riches of His grace, and matchless love to such as we are! Be much with Jesus. Pray over His Word. Avoid everything that would draw you from Him. Seek to make your calling and election sure. We

cannot get on comfortably without this. Be earnest and fervent in your petitions. Do not rest in prayer, but pray on until you get what you ask for. This perseverance Christ loves, as He has shown in the case of the importunate widow.



**The Higher Life. No Frown from Christ.
Salvation Free. Religion Everything.**

For me to live is Christ. —PHIL. i. 21.

HOW sweet it is to live for God: to walk through this world as a candidate for a crown of glory. There is no happiness like it. What the world calls happiness is as a passing shadow, gone for ever. Eternity, with all its solemn reality, is before us, and we have no time to trifle as do others. We are called to be witnesses for Christ, and lights in a dark world. Often have I to weep before God for my unprofitableness; for what do I more than others? The world will always be a snare to the believer, and we have need to keep close to Christ. But O how sweet to know, under a sense of our sad departures, that we

have a Fountain to which we may still repair, and wash and be clean. Jesus stands ready to pardon, to strengthen and heal. He has never yet frowned a heart-broken, weeping sinner away. To be always coming is our privilege; and to be ever looking at the things that are not seen is our happiness, for then we get above the trials and snares of life, and Christ secures His proper place.

I fear that here many make a grand mistake. They either bring their good works by way of acceptance, or mix them up with Christ's work. But God will not regard such, as self-righteousness is an abomination in His sight. How often does the enemy of souls entangle us in this evil, long after we had thought we had clean escaped it. But we must come as sinners, without money and without price. Many for this cause are kept back from much sweet and holy enjoyment in Christ, and walk in great uncertainty, *knowing not what it is to rejoice evermore.* To all

such I would say, Go to Christ at once with all your unworthiness, and He will have mercy upon you. May we have the teaching of the Holy Spirit, that best of Teachers, who will take of the things of Jesus, and show them unto us. Religion must be everything to us, or nothing.



The Power of Gentleness.

No Want too trifling for God. Apostacy begins
at the Closet.

Thy gentleness hath made me great.—PSALM xviii. 35.

CONSIDER Him whom we profess to follow, who bore the contradiction of sinners against Himself, and has borne with our manners in the wilderness so long, and still continues to bear with us, and who would have His followers walk in His footsteps. It is our duty to reprove, but with *gentleness*, with holy affection and Christian kindness, never allowing ourselves to entertain an unkind feeling. We can never persuade sinners to do right in any other way than by leading them to Him who alone can change the heart. May the Lord keep our minds stayed upon Him. We know

not how condescending God is to His people until we try Him. Go and tell Him all your wants. Satan will say, "Do you think that God will listen to such trifles?" He was a liar from the beginning; for every hair of your head is numbered. O for a heart to feel the goodness of God in the rich display of His mercy in bestowing upon sinful man so many mercies, and such a variety of blessings. How unworthy are we of the least of them. And while He provides so bountifully for all our temporal wants, He waits to be gracious to our souls, that He might give us a richer and better inheritance above. How good is God! Do not let us forget private devotion. It is from the neglect of this that all apostates date their fall.



**Spiritual Conflict. True Heart's Ease.
Christ's Glory dearer than Life.**

Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.—GAL. v. 16.

ALTHOUGH the Lord is showing you something of the hidden evil of your own heart, which sometimes puts you at your wit's end, yet He gives you to mourn over and lament it before Him. Remember, too, that He says, "*To this man will I look, even to him who is of a broken and a contrite heart, and who trembles at My Word.*" Be not discouraged if you feel the Spirit lusting against the flesh, and the flesh against the Spirit. This is an evidence of your sonship. But aim to walk after the Spirit, and give no allowance to the flesh. Put off the old man, with all his vile

affections, and put on the New Man, which is created in righteousness and true holiness. Whenever you feel the conflict, lift up your heart at once to Jesus, and He will give you the victory. It is written, "*Sin shall not have dominion over you, for ye are not under the law, but under grace.*" We are travelling home to God, so be of good courage. The only way to get on comfortably is in casting all our care upon Him, being careful for nothing. The Lord has engaged to provide both for body and soul all our journey through, and to land us safe at last on that happy shore where there is no more care, sin, or death. Oh to walk circumspectly! It is easy to *make* a Christian profession, but to *walk in* it is quite another thing. Let us pray for much of the sanctifying influence of the Holy Spirit, as well as for His outpouring. Let us aim to grow in grace, and to trust in Christ day by day. Never let the cause of Jesus be hindered through us; but let His

glory be dearer to our hearts than life itself.
We must "watch and pray." These two
commands go together.



**The Hand of God's Providence. Uprightness of Walk.
Correction, a Proof of Sonship.**

The Lord will give grace and glory ; no good thing will
He withhold from them that walk uprightly. — PSALM
lxxxiv. 11.

How delightful it is to see the hand of God in providing for our wants, in answer to our prayer. We are to repair to Him in all our need. We have *a right* to do so: a right made over to us by Christ, and He loves us to make use of it. I have never yet called upon Him in time of need but He has heard and answered, and has always proved better than my fears. To this end He sends trials, that they may bring us to prove Him, and to see if He is not faithful to His own word. Does He not feed the sparrows, and are we

not of more value than they? Only let us aim to walk uprightly, and He will give grace and glory, and no good thing will He withhold. But if we do not walk uprightly, He will send the rod; and we bless Him for this, for if we were without chastisement we should lack one of the proofs of our sonship, for He "*scourgeth every son whom He receiveth.*" It is the will of our heavenly Father that we bear "*much fruit,*" that we be not "*barren nor unfruitful,*" "*always abounding in the work of the Lord.*" O let us be assured that it is not a vain thing to serve the Lord. I see more and more every day that the Word of God is true, verified in all around us. "*A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked.*" It is the will of our heavenly Father that we should feel our dependence upon Him, and that He should thus manifest His tender love in supplying all our need. Even the brute creation, fed *daily* from our hands, grow more and more

attached to us from the very circumstance of their dependence. So it is with Christ's little flock; they look up to the hand that supplies them, and it is opened for their relief.



Backsliding Healed through the Discipline of Trial.

It is good for me that I have been afflicted.—PSALM cxix. 71.

WHY are God's children so tried in this world ?
It is because He designs to give with trials
the choicest of His blessings. Our sinful
hearts are prone to wander and backslide
from Him who has so loved us as to shed
His blood, His own blood, as a ransom for
our sins.

**I was weary of my Saviour,
Turned my heart to other love ;
Deeply moved at my behaviour,
Soon He called me from above :
Drew me gently,
Bound me with the cords of love.**

This delightful bondage breaking,
Soon my footsteps roamed away ;
He, in grief at my forsaking,
Followed me the live-long day :
 Wooed me sweetly,
Words of love I heard Him say.

Yet I left this heavenly Lover,
 Though His lips like lillies were ;
Once again became a rover,
 Turned away from One so fair :
 Still He followed,
Watched me with untiring care.

Last of all He sent in sorrow,
 Called my idols all away ;
For the sake of bright to-morrow
 Darkened all my joys to-day ;
 Then He whispered,
“O, my fair one, come away !

“I'm in all thy griefs a sharer,
 Thy afflictions all are Mine ;
’Tis, My love, to draw thee nearer :
 I have won thee,
Won thy heart by love divine !

“’Tis in mercy I have pained thee,
Wanderer in a desert wild ;
Now I know that I have gained thee,
Oh my love, my undefiled !”
Thus He soothed me
With His accents sweet and mild.

Now I follow where He leads me :
I am His, and He is mine ;
With the richest love He feeds me,
While upon Him I recline :
Gazing upward,
On His eyes I fasten mine.

This has been our experience again and again. And was Jesus ever willing to lose one of His sheep, or one of His lambs, while the lion was watching and raging for our destruction? O how little do we know, or can imagine, how necessary were all our trials and crosses to keep us from destroying ourselves, which the Lord in mercy sends from time to time. We shall praise Him eternally for the rod.

The Holy Lesson of God's Disappointments.
Looking to Jesus, the Correction of Pride.

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.—

PHIL. ii. 5.

How wonderfully has the Lord dealt with you. He may have disappointed you in some things upon which you set your heart, showing you the emptiness of the creature, and the uncertainty of human friendships; but in this He has spoken as with a loud voice, "*Trust ye not in a friend, put ye not confidence in a guide.*" (Micah vii. 5.) He causes us to walk in a way that humbles us. Here lies one of our easy besetting sins; the hidden pride of the heart often escapes our most minute inspection. But God sees it, and will not have it there. He will adopt His own

way to cause us to take our proper place in the dust. He will not have His children glorying highly of themselves. Job passed through tribulations the most heart-rending, and he was brought to abhor himself in dust and in ashes. Let us be watchful, and pray to be enabled by faith in Christ to overcome this evil. God resists the proud, but He gives grace to the humble. "*Learn of Me,*" Jesus, "*for I am meek and lowly in heart.*" Not a particle of pride was there in the precious Son of God. It is by looking to Him and that continually, that we alone can conquer this evil, that belongs to Satan himself and who is ever at our elbow to suggest excuses for its working.

The Two Natures in the Regenerate.

What will ye see in the Shulamite? As it were the company of two armies.—SONG OF SOLOMON VI. 13.

"Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin, for His seed remaineth in him, and he cannot sin, because he is born of God." In the regenerate there are two natures, called in Scripture the old man and the new man. There is no mixture of the two natures. The old man remains sinful and desperately wicked until we leave it behind at death. The new man is of a Divine nature, and cannot sin, because it is born of God; while the old man cannot cease to sin, because it is not of God. Some explain the passage to mean that the believer cannot sin as formerly, or that he cannot sin wilfully. But why not

take the Word of God just as He has given it? The Apostle says: "*Whosoever is born of God CANNOT SIN, because he is born of God.*" That is, the new man, or the new nature, cannot sin because it is divine: it is born of God. The old man, or the unrenewed nature, cannot cease from sin because it is of the flesh, and remains flesh until it dies. Thus there are two natures in the regenerate warring the one against the other. Sin in every shape is hateful to the believer. It is his daily burden and grief. He would be holy as God is holy. The old man, which God could in a moment destroy, is allowed to remain for wise purposes, even to increase the believer's diligence and quicken his activity and thus bringing out every grace to perfection, especially the grace of faith, by which he overcomes the world, the flesh, and the devil. But if we feel the indwelling of the old man we also feel the indwelling of the Spirit, and so we can exclaim, "*Thanks be to God, wh*

giveth us the victory." It is thus God brings good out of evil. Who would suppose that this fountain of iniquity within us should bring glory to God? But so it is. It is more glorified by its remaining in us than had He chosen to empty us of it at once. He makes the very thing we hate and abhor conducive to advancement in the Divine life and glorifying to Him. What produces the humble and the contrite heart? What lays us low at His blessed feet? What leads us so continually to the open fountain, as the sin which is ever striving against the new nature, which yet holds its ground and maintains a successful warfare, overcoming continually by the blood of the Lamb.

Many speak as if there were some good thing in the old man, by which in due time he will grow better. But if those who reasoned thus knew more deeply the exceeding sinfulness of sin, more of the sink of iniquity within, and that if, left to themselves, they

would finally perish, they would be found clinging closer to Christ, seeking that the new nature might be strengthened, and that through faith in a once crucified and now risen Saviour they should obtain the victory over this their deadly foe.



The Atoning Work of Christ. Loving Obedience,
A Consequence.

By one offering He hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.—HEB. X. 14.

THE human nature of Christ was that of a "*Lamb without spot or blemish.*" It was offered up as a whole burnt offering, the fire of God's wrath coming down to consume it upon the altar of atonement, thus making full satisfaction to Divine Justice for the sins of His Church. For three days He was held a Victim of death and the Prisoner of the grave. But He who lay down His life had power to take it again. He rose. Satan had no more to do with it. And thus He bore it to heaven, not ashamed to present it before all the angelic host, still bearing the marks

of our sin. How ought we to manifest love in return by an unreserved obedience to His commands, doing His whole will, counting it our meat and our drink so to Every precept He taught us should be written upon our hearts by the finger of love.



An Especial Promise. The mighty Power of Prayer.

As a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.—GEN. xxxii. 28.

WHAT an unburdening of the heart is a holy unconstrained, and loving interview with God, our best Friend! He is so ready to do us good, and that from everlasting and unbounded love, sovereign in its character, and independent of all deserts in ourselves. Is it not a high privilege to have such an One to whom we may go when oppressed? The especial promise given to me from God Himself, in days of great trial, "I WILL BE A FATHER TO THY FATHERLESS CHILDREN," still holds good. Praise be to His holy name for the fulfilment of that most gracious promise, which I have yet to plead before Him.

It has been to me, like a note of hand, ever ready to be presented by faith, never yet rejected, nor ever will be, by Him who has endorsed it with His own name. Here is my strong hold. O the power of prayer with God! With men's hearts we can have nothing to do; but with the heart, the tender, loving heart of the God-Man, Christ Jesus, who has said, "*Ask anything in My name, and I will do it,*" we have to do. Here is the privilege of the Christian, and a great and mighty one it is. Make the most of it. It is only to last for time, and then eternity will unfold to our astonished view the whole map of God's unchanging love, set forth in all the ever varying yet never erring dispensations of His providence. Ask much at His hands. We cannot ask too much when we ask in the name of Jesus.

Passing Away.
Living for Christ. Tears of Joy.

The world passeth away, and the lust thereof : but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.—1 JOHN ii. 17.

THE world is passing away, we are passing away, Jesus has passed away, and we are following after Him. And would we have it otherwise? In a little and we shall see Him face to face. May we here have some foretaste of the full enjoyment above. Jesus is one with us, and never absent from us. The world may for a time cast a film over the mental vision; but this should only stimulate our earnestness to have it removed, that when we go to the throne of grace we may not wrong Him by not feeling His sensible presence. We are on our way to glory, to the

inheritance which our dearest Friend
gone to prepare for us. Let each day
us on a fresh start for heaven, with gi
loins, and hearts and eyes fixed upon J
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it; living *upon* Christ, living *for* Christ,
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mourning from a deep sense of unworthi
Thus prostrate in the dust before Hi
mourn and yet rejoice. Vile and wort
though we are, Jesus loves us, and will
us unto the end.



Mutual Encouragement. Satan's Devices.

Readiness for the Lord's Coming.

Exhort one another daily, while it is called to-day ; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ.—HEB. iii. 13, 14.

THE Lord's people should find time to encourage each other in the way to the kingdom. How hard it is, in the midst of the hurly-burly of time and sense, to keep a steady eye upon the end of the race. Satan is called the "god of this world," and he certainly loses no opportunity of asserting his power over his infatuated subjects ; but his great delight is so to encumber the minds and entangle the affections of God's own people, that they can scarcely realize their heavenly origin. Now this should not be. We must—not only the minister of the Gos-

pel, but every Christian—be on our watch tower. O to be ready, *quite* ready, having nothing to do, the moment when we shall be called home. The world is but a dreary passage, through which we pass to a glorious home prepared for us by infinite and everlasting love. Let us not be ignorant of Satan's devices. I find, when caught in any way by his traps, the best plan is at once to lift up my heart to Jesus and cry for pardon and help. He will give both. We have no far to go to reach Him. Hold fast the conviction of your oneness with Christ. He took our nature, sin only excepted, and in conversion He gives us His own. Thus our bodies become the temple of God through the Spirit. Therefore we are exhorted to grieve not the Holy Spirit by whom we are sealed unto the day of redemption. The present is not worth a thought, save that it conducts us to the glory that awaits the tried believer. All is true. Many of the Lord's people are lookin

for His appearing now. I can truly say, "*Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly.*" May He keep us in a state of readiness for His coming. It will be sudden and most unexpected to millions. But whether He comes to me, or I shall go to Him, I shall *see* Him, and shall know Him too, even as I am known. Then will come perfect holiness, and with it perfect happiness.





The Saviour's Wealth.

But this I say, brethren, The time is short.—I COR.

How eventful is every moment we here below, and each one is more than to us which has not some reference to eternity to which we are hastening. Most Lord make us diligent and watchful, show us more and more our utter helplessness at the same time unfolding to us the treasures we have in Jesus, from cometh our help. How can we be

fulness grace for grace. How prone we are to walk at a great distance from this precious Friend, and lose much that would fill our souls with peace and joy. The Lord, speaking of ancient Israel, says: "*O that thou hadst hearkened to My commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea.*" Lord, put such a heart as this in me, that my peace may flow as a river: the peace that flows from the ocean of Thy love. Do we know much of this? Are we sensible of the breathing of the Lord's love into our innermost soul, enabling us to exclaim with Thomas, "*My Lord, and my God!*" If this is not the case, may we not rest until we attain unto it; for it is attainable. The poorer we are, the more welcome. It is the fancied riches of the sinner that keeps him from Christ. Whereas the empty sinner and the full Christ can walk together in sweet fellowship, and none else. We are saved, and saved only for what He

vation (a wretched one) for themselves, which a just and holy Lord God will nothing to do. We are saved only for Jesus has done for us. All our real works are done after we believe in not before. And even if we examine best works we shall find enough of sin mixed up with them as might sink us to en woe.



The Care of Souls. The Confession of Sins.
Nothing without Christ.

They watch for your souls as they that must give account.—
HEB. xiii. 17.

MAY you feel increasingly that you are placed in the most responsible situation: *the care of souls*: immortal beings who are passing into another world. God grant that you may be led to preach Christ simply and fully. Be much in prayer for the power of the Holy Ghost, or you will do nothing. Knowing this, you will still need to be reminded of it. If the Lord does not give you souls for your hire, there is something wrong, and you should go and inquire, until you find out what it is. The Lord will reveal it. O to live more in child-like simplicity on our Father who loves

...deeply into this: confessing our
short-comings and infirmities, dealing
God in little things,—not in generals,
particulars. How long it is before we
out the truth, "*Without Me ye can do no*
Not one real step in the heavenly ro
we take unless we lean upon Jesus.
a mighty arm is this! "*God manifest
flesh.*" Here is security for us, and help
passing through a wilderness to a li
glory. Keep this truth uppermost i
mind,—that God has to do with you
moment of your existence, and that yo
to do with Him! Solemn thought
how true!

Sympathy and Comfort for a Bereaved Mother.

Rahel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not. Thus saith the Lord ; Refrain thy voice from weeping, and thine eyes from tears : for thy work shall be rewarded, saith the Lord ; and they shall come again.—JER. xxxi. 15, 16.

THE Lord has been pleased to house another of your little ones, to join the host of those already there, even of those who do always behold the Father's face. "*Of such is the kingdom of heaven.*" It has, doubtless, been a severe trial, and your heart has deeply felt it. But as nothing can take place in the experience of a child of God save what our good and gracious Father designs, in infinite love, for our advancement in the divine life so closely connected with His own glory, we are to submit to His holy will, and believe that

there is a need's be for it, and that what we know not now we shall know hereafter. The Lord loves His children too well to lay the weight of a feather upon them without absolute necessity. His name is Love. I trust you have been enabled to say, "*Thy will is done!*" We are but poor judges of what we need. God, who gave His beloved Son to die for us, knows what is best for us in our journey homewards. Nothing can take place but what is in that covenant, ordered in all things, before our existence. From everlasting His doings have been those of infinite wisdom and love towards His redeemed people. I trust you are among the happy number who know and love Him. The Lord will try the faith of all His own elect. Faith is His gift, and the parent grace of every other. Perhaps in this affliction you have felt it hard of God to deal thus with you; and the enemy may have sought to persuade you that God could not love you, or He would not so

afflict you. Now the reverse is the case, for the Lord chastens those whom He loves; and if we were without chastisement we may well doubt whether we were His or not. It is the lot of all who are travelling to heaven. Your little ones are not lost, they are only taken there before you, taken from the evil to come. The Lord loved them better than you, or He would not have released them so soon from all the ills and temptations of this wicked world. "*And Jesus called a little child unto Him.*" Bereaved mother, He has called *yours!*



Affliction, a Time of Heart-searching.

By this therefore shall the iniquity of Jacob be purged ; and
this is all the fruit to take away his sin.—ISAIAH xxvii. 9.

A TIME of affliction should always be a searching time with our hearts. The Lord so designs it. We are then to turn in upon ourselves, and see how matters stand between our souls and a heart-searching, re-trying God. The world, or perhaps the creature, has taken that place which God should alone occupy. Jealous of our love, He must have not a half heart, but our whole heart, our supreme affection. He must occupy the first place. If, upon a close inspection, we find that the Lord Jesus has been overlooked, at times almost forgotten, and that our best affections have been given to the creature or

to the world, what then are we to do? Only to acknowledge our sin, and turn unto Him who is so ready to receive us. The confession of sin is one of the most sanctifying exercises of the renewed soul. And have we not always something within or without to acknowledge to Him who bore our sins and carried our sorrows? Let us, then, repair to the feet of Jesus, and confess our wanderings, our lack of love, our forgetfulness of Him who never forgets us, bearing, as He does, our worthless names upon His heart, engraven there for ever. And now we have confessed! And what more? We want a gracious token of recognition, a smile from His blessed countenance. Let us not quit His feet until we have it. We *must* have it, and wrestle until we do. It is the duty as it is the privilege of the believer not to be satisfied without basking in the very smiles of God. This is religion in its *reality*.

Individual Responsibility.
The Creature Removed to make Place for God.

Behold, all souls are Mine ; as the soul of the father, so also
the soul of the son is mine : the soul that sinneth it shall
die.—EZEK. xvi. 4.

How much we have to do in this short space of time ! We are to glorify God and to show forth His praise. All is to be consecrated to Him. Our whole hearts, our talents, our health, our strength, our influence,—all belong to God, and all are to be employed in His service and for His glory. What have we that He has not given ? We are only stewards, and must give an account of our stewardship. Solemn thought ! How little are thousands sensible of their *individual responsibility* to God. May the Lord pardon, and give us

grace to yield ourselves to a renewed consecration. There is nought worth living for but to serve and please Jesus. If we live below this we are great losers. We might have much of heaven here, in the blest foretaste of what awaits us hereafter. This is not our rest. Let us beware of building a nest here, for as sure as we do He who loves us will plant a thorn in it. How little do we realize the nearness of heaven. What is heaven?—a place which Jesus went to take possession of for us. And for what are all the crosses and trials of life?—they are to prepare us for the place He has prepared for us. Think of the joy of beholding no strange God, but One whom we knew and loved, and who loved us. And then to rejoin again those who sleep in Jesus, for ever re-united as partakers of the same glory. It is for this He takes one by one, that we might be compelled to look *upward*. He takes away the creature, and gives us Himself.

Created Uncertainty.
Prayer Answered Contrary to Human Expectation.
The One Name never Forgotten.

A man's heart deviseth his way : but the Lord directeth his steps.—PROV. xvi. 9.

UNCERTAIN are the things of this uncertain world. "*The lot is cast into the lap : but the whole disposing thereof is of the Lord ;*" and God be praised that it is so. It is an unspeakable mercy that all our concerns are in His hands who knows the end from the beginning. We know nothing : but where His providence guides we may confidently follow. O to have a Father to lead His blind child through the wilderness world, where we have enemies on the right hand and on the left,—who has engaged to land us safely at last. I asked the

Lord to give me something to do, and to fit me for the work, and contrary to my own foolish idea as to how my petition should be granted, He thought fit in His infinite wisdom and loving-kindness to send me *here*. How true is every word of God. "*My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the Lord.*" O to be enabled to see His loving heart in all the varying dispensations of life. This is one of our great privileges, and another comparatively great one is to meet at the throne of grace a smiling face and no denials. God will answer the prayers of His children, although He may do so in His own way. I have heard a precious sermon from the words, "*Keep yourselves in the love of God.*" My love to ——. But I forget almost all names but *one*, and that is too deeply engraved upon my heart to be forgotten. I can never, no never, forget the name of JESUS, and I am sure He will never forget me.

**God's Dealings with Families. Not our Own.
No more Sea.**

You only have I known of all the families of the earth :
therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.—AMOS
III. 2.

IT is a remarkable providence by which the Lord's hand has been so manifest in the recent history of three families whom I have long and so well known. The three heads have boldly held on their own way, hearing, and consenting to, the Gospel, but have never yielded obedience to its claims. These three families are now in deep mourning, and the sanctuary where they together for so many years listened to the voice of truth lies buried in ashes. I think this is the voice of God to them. Nothing happens by chance, but every event comes with a Divine solemn message.

Let them beware, lest God speaks louder still! The world is a great snare, and the source of many a fatal evil. What is it all when we come to look death in the face, and are about to turn our backs upon all below? I think the *poor* believer lives more by faith, and consequently knows more of Christ, and his responsibility is less. But talents and rank and wealth are from the Lord, and are lost to us if we turn them not to a good account! O to feel that we are not our own, but that all we possess belongs to the Lord. Let me hear all you know of our friends on the other side [of the Atlantic]. There is a period coming when no wide ocean will separate God's dear saints, "*and there shall be no more sea.*" How needful to have our lamps trimmed and brightly burning, looking for our welcome summons to our Father's happy home above. Is it any wonder that Christ, who knew our sinful, treacherous hearts, should say, "WATCH"?

Thanksgiving in Heaven for the Trials of Earth. World-Weanedness.

They sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are Thy works, Lord God Almighty: just and true are Thy ways, thou King of saints.—REV. xv. 3.

IT is good to feel that we are in the Lord's hands, and that all our trials, small and great, are designed by Him for the furtherance of His work in our souls. We shall have to thank Him for them all when we see Him face to face. What a blissful time that will be. O that we lived in more holy anticipation of that event for which all others are subservient. How much weaning we need from this disappointing world: a world lying in the Wicked One; and yet we so closely

cling to it that He who loves us is compelled to send many a wrench to tear us from it. O to live more for our blissful inheritance above. One could scarcely suppose that, with the Bible in our hands, we could read it with hearts so full of unbelief, and with minds so prone to forget its commands, precepts, and promises, thus calling down a Father's rod to awaken us to a sense of our sin and folly.



Intercessory Prayer. Israel's Hope.

Pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.—JAMES
v. 16.

AND so you are tried. I can help you in no other way than *by prayer*, and this I do by day and by night. I have to mourn over my proneness to forget a thousand mercies in one little cross. Why are we out of hell? Why have we a hope of heaven? Why have we a bed to lie upon, when Jesus denied Himself a shelter for His head, and even a bed? Depend upon it Christ is taking His own way with us, to humble us, and to make us look more to Him and less to the creature. He would have us not only confess that we are nothing—for this is easily said,—but also

to *feel* it. It requires, with some of God's children, the sharpest discipline to compel them to give up self. In some form or other, unsuspected by us, it clings to us like our very skin, and then it requires a sharp instrument to accomplish the end our heavenly Father intends for our good and His own glory. Pride is most hateful to Him, and this distemper cleaves so closely to us, that the Lord is giving us just such medicine as is calculated to effect a cure. O that it may be accomplished! We are called to walk by faith in an unseen Hand, which at this moment is directing all our little concerns, however intricate they may appear.

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
But trust Him for His word ;
Behind a frowning providence
There sits a smiling God.

What a world of sin and trial this is: it

is an ocean of crime and wretchedness. Earth's creatures suffer for man's sin. Truly it is emphatically, "*This present evil world.*" But, "*the Lord is my Shepherd: I shall not want.*" To the Word and the testimony turn, oh my soul, and there take thy stand, in the midst of all that harrows and oppresses, and thou art safe. "*O the Hope of Israel, the Saviour thereof in the time of trouble.*"

'Tis the time of Israel's trouble :
Lo ! the enemy is chief ;
Yet shall Israel have the double :
Double joy for all his grief.
Israel's Saviour
Will appear and bring relief.

Israel's foes rejoice to see him
Forced to bow to their command :
Who, they say, shall ever free him ?
Who shall save him from our hand ?
Can Jehovah
Now return them to their land ?

Yes ! though Israel were removed
To the world's remotest end ;
Know ye, Israel is beloved,
Israel has a faithful Friend :
He will save Him,
And with power his cause defend.

Yes ! Jehovah will restore him ;
Israel yet shall have his day ;
Darkness shall be light before him,
Every obstacle give way ;
And Jehovah
Will His enemies repay.

This hymn of Kelly's is comforting. How wonderful is God in His long-suffering patience towards His poor, tottering feeble ones. And yet I loathe and abhor myself in dust and in ashes before Him. How truly do I feel, "I have left undone those things which I ought to have done, and have done those things which I ought not to have done, and there is no health in me : God be merciful to me a sinner." And

yet I have not been allowed to lose sight of my interest in Christ, and have felt that He remained the same. The work of Jesus is finished, and we are safe for heaven. Satan has been permitted to plough up the fallow ground of my heart, and there is a needs-be for it. He never fails to take advantage of circumstances, for he knows all our weak points. The Lord, as in the case of Job, permits him to try His people—not to please Satan, but to show them what is in them, and also what is in Himself.



Soul Dejection succeeded by Spiritual Joy.
The Creature what God makes it.
Upheld for Fifty Years.

Why art thou cast down, O my soul ? and why art thou
disquieted within me ? Hope thou in God : for I shall yet
praise Him, who is the health of my countenance, and my
God. —PSALM xlii. 11.

MY soul has been bowed down for days
together, but the Lord lifted up upon me
the light of His countenance, and that was
sweeter than life. We must be tried in a
trying world, and often pass under the rod,
lest we should forget what dependent crea-
tures we are, and what a precious Christ we
have at God's right hand to plead for us. We
are sometimes called to eat the sins of our
youth, and that with bitter herbs of deep,

heart-broken repentance. We are poor sinners still, and need as much the grace of God as we did the first moment that we turned our faces heaven-ward. O that in all our trials and temptations God may keep us from ever bringing a reproach upon the cause of Christ! Let us be entreated for His sake who bled, suffered, and died for us, to watch our hearts and conduct, for Satan is still walking to and fro on the face of the earth. How necessary the exhortation of the dear Redeemer, who knew us better than we know ourselves, and knew, too, the power of Satan : *" Watch and pray, lest ye enter into temptation."* Let us take heed, too, that we grieve not the Holy Spirit, by whom we are sealed. Lightness and levity, as well as positive sin, will do this. May God keep us, for we cannot keep ourselves. May He help us, too, to cease from man, and to cling closer to a gracious Jesus. The creature is just what God makes it to us. What an honour to lean upon the

God of heaven,—Him who upholds the world and all created things. This honour He puts upon a worm. What a mercy to be kept for fifty years in the ways of God, without being left in that time to bring a disgrace upon His dear name, or to turn aside out of His way, upheld by sovereign grace. “*Kept by the power of God, through faith, unto salvation.*” I have had a blessed feast at His footstool to-day. My sweetest moments are these. When I want a crumb of comfort, I fly there and get it. He is a blessed Saviour to me. He lays me in the dust, and then shows Himself as all-sufficient, and says, “*Fear not: I am thine, and thou art Mine.*” My stronghold is PRAYER, and a blessed spot it is in this wide wilderness. I can truly say, I know not what real happiness means but when upon my knees before God. And while my face is bathed in tears, my heart is filled with love, peace, and joy unspeakable and full of glory.

“*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.*”

Faultless Before the Throne.
Love, the Atmosphere of Heaven.

And in their mouth was found no guile : for they are without fault before the throne of God.—REV. xiv. 5.

DEAR ——— died this morning. The shock of her mother's death, while lying at her side in bed, was the cause of her illness. I wish her joy, for she is released from a sinful, suffering body, and has gone to that world of holiness and happiness for which she lived, and where she longed to be. Whatever were her exclusive views, she was a child of God, and her whole life, like her Saviour's, was devoted to doing good. She now knows as she is known, and all that was contracted in her creed is for ever done away. How I love to think of heaven as the atmosphere of love, and the

unutterable delight of seeing Him whom we most love, freed from sin, and for ever with the Lord. Live for eternity. Time is short. May we be enabled to put full confidence in God when, to our weak apprehension, things go contrary. All things are ours, for we are Christ's, and Christ is God's. It is wonderful how soon we forget who it is that undertakes for our present good and eternal happiness. Every fresh disappointment sets us doubting and fearing,—doubting whether this or that will actually work for our good. “*Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you a kingdom.*” If He has given us a kingdom, will He deny us anything needful for our comfort while passing on to it?



Foretastes of Heaven. Trusting only in God.
Face-to-face Communion.

Whether in the body, I cannot tell ; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell : God knoweth ; such an one caught up to the third heaven.—2 COR. xii. 2.

WHAT a privilege it is to unbosom ourselves in the very heart of Christ ! So to live is like a little heaven on earth, affording us glimpses of it ere we arrive at its full enjoyment. I feel increasingly anxious that we should look more to the Lord than to man. Put no confidence in human plans. Like bubbles floating in the air, they often look very pretty ; but they burst and vanish away. Trust in the Lord, and surely we shall be fed. All we have to do is to walk in the precept, and the Lord will fulfil the promise. *The silver and*

the gold is His, and He will withhold no good thing from them that walk uprightly. If we do that which He has commanded us not to do, we cannot with any confidence ask for the fulfilment of the promise. Let us strive not to please ourselves, but Him who loved us and gave Himself for us. *"It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in princes."* Such is this intercourse with Jesus—opening the whole heart, and keeping nothing back. It is like talking to one near to us as one's-self, one with us, who loves us better than we love ourselves. *"And the Lord spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend."* May the life-giving power of the Holy Ghost rest upon us!



Meeting Jesus at His Table. Sensible Communion.

While the King sitteth at His table, my spikenard sendeth forth the smell thereof.—SONG OF SOL. i. 12.

At the Lord's table I have had a sweet, clear view of Jesus. I went expressly to meet Him, and was not disappointed. *He was there!* I had so many requests to make that the time flew, and it seemed but as a moment, and I did not tell Him all I wanted, nor half. Oh how sweet and soul-soothing are these flying visits from the court of heaven, holy intimations and foretastes of what we shall enjoy above! I have heard it remarked by some Christians, that they did not know when the Lord was with them and when He was not! Is not this a painful truth, and much to be lamented? How can any walk happily

in such a state of soul? To enjoy the Lord's presence here is an earnest of it hereafter. May every blessing of the new covenant be ours!



Alarming Error. The Church of God Sifted.
Spiritual Revival.

When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him.—ISA. lix. 19.

I HAVE been taking a view of the abounding evil that seems at the present time to alarm the whole Church of Christ, believing, as I do that Popery will surely come in upon us like a flood. Yet I see a bright light in this dark cloud. I believe it will result in a great blessing to the Church of God. It will be a *sifting* time. "*The fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly purge His floor.*" Why is not the Spirit of God poured down upon us from on high? Because of three things,—formality, the love of the world, and unbelief. There are Achans in the camp of Israel hid-

den at present, but must be brought to light. There will then be a great and gracious revival of true religion. The world will take its own place, and the Church of God hers, and there shall be a wide and eternal separation. My soul rejoices in the prospect. Nothing is impossible with God. Oh that He may be glorified in the midst of the Churches, His saints sanctified, sinners converted, and He shall receive all the praise !



White Garments.
Living upon Jesus as a Little Child.

Let thy garments be always white ; and let thy head lack no ointment.—ECCLES. ix. 8.

DISAPPOINTMENTS attend us every step we take through a world like this. It is a trying world for a child of God, who wishes to keep his garments unspotted and to walk closely and humbly with his God. There is much within and without to harass him every breath he draws. I feel it increasingly so ; I am afraid of sinning in some way or other ; and were it not for help constantly vouchsafed from the great Helper of His little flock, I should lie down in despair, and implore the Lord to take me at once from a world of sin, and release me from a body of suffering. I

never came to Jesus so much as a little child as I do now that I am an aged pilgrim. I seem to sink into helpless weakness, wanting Christ more than ever every moment.



Unsanctified Blessings. The Aching Void.

In the fulness of his sufficiency he shall be in straits.—
JOB xx. 22.

WOULD that all the varying dispensations of God might but bring —— to think of his soul, and cause him to find his way to the feet of Jesus. Hitherto they have produced no such good effect. God has poured into his lap every blessing ; but how have they been employed ? Not to the glory of the Giver, for He has not been in all his thoughts. And have all these things made him *happy* ? Not the least so. There is a *void* in his heart which none but Jesus can fill, and a *consciousness* in his mind that all is not right for eternity. He knows enough of religion to make him miserable,

but not enough to make him happy. I pray for him and for others who are trying to satisfy themselves with the husks which the swine do eat, and are not filled.



**The Insufficiency of Creature Obedience.
Christ a Law-filling Saviour.**

Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.—ROM. x. 4.

DEAR — is not so happy. She resembles one who for a long time would now and then commence to serve the Lord, then relapse for a while, and again go to work in his own strength. But the Lord will teach us our total helplessness, and that do what we may we can never mend our wicked hearts; but must cast ourselves as poor, helpless sinners at the feet of Jesus. As long as the sinner tries to amend his ways by prayer and watching and tears, with a view to prepare himself to come to Christ and to commend his case to God, he but beats the air, and will never know the comfort and joy of a

free, full pardon from the hands of Jesus. The law was given to us not so much with a view to our obedience as to convince us of sin, and of our utter impossibility to come up to its requirements. Paul had not known sin, but as the law said, "*Thou shalt not covet*;" at that moment he died to all attempt to justify himself in whole or in part by the deeds of the law. The law serves as a school-master to bring us to Christ, who, the Law Maker and the Law Giver, becomes the Law Fulfiller, fulfilling His own law; and by a principle of spiritual life and love in the new-born soul imparted by the Holy Ghost, writes it sweetly upon the heart. But how hard a matter to convince one of this. To strip a man of all self-confidence, and to show him that by the law he stands condemned before God as a transgressor, and that as a poor helpless sinner utterly lost in himself, he must come to a full Saviour, the two sweetly meeting and blending into one.

The Essential Importance of Religion.
True Conversion not the Baptism of Water, but
the Work of the Spirit.

What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world,
and lose his own soul?—MARK viii. 36.

THE one object which is of more importance to you than were you the queen of the universe, concerns *that world* which is to last through countless millions of years. This is all-important to you and to me. The very thought of losing the future inheritance, and of the solemn results of such a loss, makes one shudder. I would not alarm you, but would rather allure you to Christ. I would rather tell you of His love, and willingness to save. Will you not, then, make a full survey of your heart to Christ? This you

have not yet done. Conversion consists not of a mere change of sentiment, or of head knowledge only : it is a change of heart. *"A new heart will I give you ; I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and will give you a heart of flesh."* It is a passing from death unto life—a translation out of Satan's kingdom into the kingdom of God's dear Son : out of the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of life, light, and love. O that you but knew the real delight of sitting as a pardoned sinner at the feet of Jesus for five minutes. You would exclaim, "This is happiness such as I never tasted before !" When I reflect upon the fearful doom that awaits the unconverted, I feel intensely anxious that all dear to me should flee to the precious blood that cleanses from all sin. It is not a little water in baptism, nor an ocean of water, that cleanses away sin and saves the soul ; it is to be born again of the Spirit, and to be washed in the blood of Christ, on the ground of which only

can we enter heaven. Religion is a reality, a glorious reality. Go to Jesus; urge your pleas: take the position of Queen Esther, who stood between life and death, and Jesus will extend to you the golden sceptre, and your request shall be granted.



**Human Disappointment, a Trial of Faith.
Importunity in Prayer.**

**My soul, wait thou only upon God ; for my expectation is
from Him.—PSALM lxii. 5.**

THIS disappointment is indeed a trial of faith, but it is your loving Father who has withheld the blessing from you. But O if He has given you His Son, will He withhold any thing else that would be for your good ? The Lord can yet help you. There are more ways than one. Look to Him, and He will do it. His merciful eye is upon you, and you must go to Him again and again, and He will answer you ; thereby your faith will grow stronger and stronger. The Lord loves importunity. "*The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof.*" Only grieve not the Spirit

by leaning upon an arm of flesh, thus going down into Egypt for help. Get it altogether from the Lord Himself, and say not, as one of old, "*If the Lord should open windows in heaven, this might be.*" Why, He will open even the windows of heaven if nothing else would do, rather than not answer your prayer and supply your want! Use your faith. It is a precious grace and God loves its exercise in His children.



Solemn Charge to a Minister. The Blood of Souls.
True Religion the Promoter of Happiness.

I am pure from the blood of all men.—ACTS xx. 26.

How true is the Word of God : “ *Unless a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.*” I charge you to enforce this upon your hearers. Let them not be deceived upon this great question. The Holy Ghost must quicken the dead soul, or there is no spiritual life, and consequently no entrance into the kingdom of Christ above. Heaven’s doors are closed upon all and every one who is not born again by the life-giving power of the Spirit. O for ten thousand worlds would I not deceive one soul upon this subject, and God forbid that you should ! Beware of softening it down, leading them to think that the

water of baptism can regenerate the soul. It is a libel against the Holy Ghost. He alone opens the blind eyes of the sinner; and the same Spirit leads to Jesus, and enables him to believe, and seals him at once an heir of heaven and a joint-heir with Christ. Of all important subjects to man this is the most important. O press it upon your hearers. Let not the blood of sinners be found in your skirts in the day when every one of us must give account of himself to God. This new birth, too, is *manifest*. It is experimentally known, and to know it is worth ten thousand worlds. "*We know*," says the Apostle, "*that we have passed from death unto life.*" "*The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God.*" David could say, "*Come all ye that fear God, and I will tell you what He hath done for my soul.*" We are thankful to acknowledge it, and to confess, "*This one thing I know, That whereas once I was blind, but now I see.*" The change

is so manifest and refreshing there is no wish to conceal it ; and we are glad to give to the Lord all the glory. It was so with me. I could have stood upon the house-top and have declared that Jesus Christ had saved a poor sinner. How many say that they believe, who yet have never undergone a change of heart ! “ *No one can call Jesus Lord but by the Holy Ghost.* ” The moment this great change transpires, the Holy Ghost takes possession of the soul for Jesus. In other words, Christ is formed in us the hope of glory. May we not cease to ask for the Holy Spirit, nor rest until we know from personal experience that we are born of God. I cannot for a moment imagine how any individual (who has the least experience of the matter) can suppose that the true knowledge of the Saviour, and a life devoted to His service, can create *melancholly*. True happiness consists in the knowledge of Jesus Christ ; and the more this knowledge increases, the happier is the

believer: this happiness deepening through eternity. What a prospect is ours! Persuade all you love to come to Christ. How much time is wasted and lost by trying to make ourselves *ready* to come, in endeavouring *prepare*, in some measure, our heart and mind; whereas, Jesus takes a poor sinner *just as is*, and then makes him all that He would have him to be.



Anti-Christian Government.
The Revival of Papal Practices. God's Controversy
with the Creature.

The Lord hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land,
because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of
God in the land.—Hos. iv. 1.

A FEW months ago Sir——did his best to build up the kingdom of Anti-Christ, and now God has brought him down from his eminence; and his government, a short time since one of the most powerful known in our time, is all to pieces: and a small event has done it. It is an awful thing to fight against God! The Lord often employs a small thing to accomplish the great events in His kingdom of grace, and to show that He is God. He will work in His own way to effect His own purposes. Who ever resisted God, fought

against Him with a puny arm, and prospered? —* is of opinion that the Establishment will fall through the machinations of the Papists; but that, ere then, the fires of Smithfield will be re-kindled. I believe, indeed, that God has a controversy with this sinful, proud, and haughty nation, and is sending pestilence and famine. But do the ungodly take knowledge of this? and is the Church of God humbling itself? Not at all! What multitudes are saying, "*Lord, Lord!*" who know Him not; and how many in His name are preaching another Gospel, a Gospel of their own invention. O when will such be wise and obey God? when will they consider their latter end? Precious Jesus! Thou Chief among ten thousand! The more men set Thee at nought, the dearer art Thou to my heart. I could weep to think how little Thou art thought of by the world at large, and even how little by Thy professing Church.

* A clergyman of the Church of England.

Thoughts of the Departed.
The Dying Testimony of a Minister. Joy at
His Dismission.

And I saw heaven opened.—REV. xix. 11.

I HAVE thought so much of —— since his departure, that I seem to get some feet above earth, nearer to heaven, where he is safely landed. If ever there was a man who greatly feared God, it was him. And yet how deeply was he exercised in his last illness. A few hours before his death he said that he never felt himself so great a sinner as he did then, but that he was "*accepted in the Beloved.*" "Yes," he repeated, "*accepted in the Beloved,*" with all my sins, infirmities, and pollutions. I love Jesus because He first loved me." So died this excellent man, who had spent his

life in the service of God. I rejoiced when I heard that he was gone to be with Jesus, that the days of his mourning were ended. Endeavour to realize heaven; it will make you more happy and fruitful.



The Reasonableness of Praise.
Faith Strengthened by Old Testament Biography.

Whoso offereth praise glorifieth Me.—PSALM 1. 23.

How seldom are our hearts tuned to praise; and yet every hour and each moment of our existence should be so. David says, "*I will sing praises to God while I have any being.*" How sweetly and blessedly was he taught of God, and how experimental are all his writings. When I feel I want my heart incited to praise I read the Psalms. And when I want my faith increased I turn to some of God's dealings with the saints of old, knowing that He is the same now that He was then. What a mercy it is to have an Almighty Friend powerful and willing to help in every time of need. I often think it requires more faith to go to

Him with small things than in great trials. We are apt to think He will not take notice of our little difficulties, and feel ashamed to call upon so great and mighty a Being for every trifle. But this thought originates with Satan and the pride of our hearts, for in one sense the universe itself and ten thousand such worlds are trifles in comparison of God. But when we read that every hair of our head is numbered, what encouragement we have to take all and everything to Him who alone can deliver us out of all our troubles. I think carrying our *little* troubles and wants to God honours Him even more than when we go to Him with greater. And so with regard to faith. God always has honoured *little* faith, however small. And this will ever be the case. Faith is His own peculiar and gracious gift, and He never fails to honour it.



**Death-bed Repentance. The Believer always Ready.
The Hope of Glory Brightening.**

How wonderful it seems that any one can trifle with eternity; can leave to a dying hour the greatest concern of life, and be satisfied with a vain hope that they are quite safe, and yet live on from day to day until the summons, perhaps, surprises them in too much distress of body to attend to the great concerns of the soul. They are gone! but where? Their doom is fixed. There is no return to rectify a fatal mistake. A death-bed is no proper place for repentance. Let us serve the Lord in life, and He will not leave us to die alone. The believer is, in a sense, always ready; and yet the mind may be so engrossed with worldly care as to cause fears and mis-

givings in the strongest Christian. It should be our aim to live habitually above the world and all its poor nothings, so walking with God in Christ. How blessed is the hope of the Christian. Mine seems to grow brighter and brighter, more and more sure. My home is above, not here, where we are but strangers and pilgrims.

A stranger here ! Then wherefore try
To find a spot on which to rest :
Beneath an ever-varying sky,
Is there one place can thus be blest ?

Once and again, some soft repose
My foolish heart has dreamed to take
Amidst a world of sin and woes,
Till God in judgment bade me wake.

In quick succession He removed
The earthly props on which I leaned ;
From aught so troubled, so beloved,
In mercy must my heart be weaned.

Stranger on earth, then, would I be ;
And whilst my lonely path I wend
On life's short journey, faith can see
Bright scenes of glory at its end.

A changeless home ! a meeting there
With earth's beloved ones round the throne ;
A Saviour's precious welcome, where
Heaven and His presence will be one.

Be mine yet more a stranger heart,
'Mid the brief space that lies between :
Up from this wilderness depart,
Strong in His strength on whom I lean.



False Peace. Only Believe.

They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of My people slightly, saying, Peace, peace ; when there is no peace.
—**JER.** vi. 14.

WHEN the Spirit of God once takes a soul in hand we should be cautious how we take the work out of His hand, and speak peace before God Himself has spoken it, and thereby deceive. It is cruel, more than cruel, to fasten the belief on one that he is safe, without real evidence of his having past from death unto life. We show our love by urging them to come to Jesus and obtain eternal life. How will they thank us in heaven for our faithfulness! May God make us faithful. I believe that an individual may, in outward reform, go to the very gate of heaven and never enter

therein, because there is no spiritual vitality in the soul. If God Himself has spoken peace, there will be no desire to conceal it. "*Come, all ye that fear the Lord, and I will tell you what He hath done for my soul,*" will be the invitation. What a mercy that it is, "*Only believe, and be saved.*" If the Lord were to set us upon doing some great thing, how hard would the sinner work; but when it is, "*Only believe,*" they turn away, evidencing that they know not themselves as lost sinners, nor God as reconciled in Jesus.



Old Age without Religion.

Youth Renewed in the Resurrection.

Not to Please Others at the Expense of Self-injury.

Pray that your flight be not in the winter.—MATT. xxiv. 20.

WHAT a wretched state it must be to have all the infirmities of old age increasing upon us without a well-grounded hope that we are travelling to a world of glory, where all these evils will be for ever left behind, and we shall be raised again in all the vigour and beauty of eternal youth. What do the worldlings lose of rich enjoyment in the absence of holy anticipation of heaven and the presence of Jesus! And how few real believers there are even who live up to their high privilege. It is their privilege to walk with God—enjoy sweet fellowship with Christ—in all things living upon Him mo-

ment by moment : this is to have a little taste below of what heaven will be above. Seek earnestly more of this state of mind. It does not prevent a cheerful spirit, though it excludes unbecoming levity and worldly trifling. How often in endeavouring to please others we get a wound to our own selves. What should we do had we not a Fountain ever open to wash away sin,—sins already pardoned, and because pardoned, the more to be deplored and mourned over because they dishonour Him who has loved us with an everlasting love, and with loving-kindness has drawn us to Himself. Such is Jesus in all His fulness, loveliness, and attraction.



Christian Union in Defence of the Christian Faith.
Temple of the Holy Ghost.
Latent Infidelity in the Believer.

That they all may be one ; as Thou, Father, art in Me, and
I in Thee, that they also may be one in Us : that the
world may believe that Thou hast sent Me.—JOHN xvii. 21.

IT is time, when the enemy is coming upon the Church like a flood, that the friends of Jesus should rally round His standard, and, hand in hand and heart with heart, unite in brotherly love to withstand him their common foe. This is no time to dwell and insist upon minor things. All who love Jesus and hold the doctrines of salvation as the Bible declares them, should lay aside non-essential points and meet in union, obeying the last injunction of our risen Head, and love one

another as He has loved us. It is one of the great mysteries of the religion of Jesus: the power of the Holy Ghost in the hearts of all His saints. This is a grand proof among thousands of others of *the truth* of our religion. "*Know ye not that ye are temples of the Holy Ghost?*" How precious ought this to make Jesus to our souls. It was the price of His atoning blood that brought us sinners into such a close contact with a reconciled God and Father. How much below our high calling we live; and one reason why we are so often tried is, to bring us into a more experimental acquaintance with this great and holy mystery. I believe that the best of God's saints, in close view of a vast eternity, will have to mourn the distance of their walk from God: that they had Him not in all their thoughts, a present God, ever in view; their eye full upon Him, seeing and acknowledging Him in everything,—for He is in everything, whether we see Him or not. How much

wretched infidelity there is still latent in the heart even of a believer! How faintly do we believe what we do believe. But O what a mercy to know Jesus! to be persuaded that whatever may be our circumstances, He is with us, directing and overruling the whole for our good and for His own glory. To know that He is ours, and that we are His. To draw near in faith, telling Him all that is in our hearts, conscious of having the ear and heart of Jehovah towards us. Is not this true, substantial happiness?



The Necessity and Preciousness of the Gospel.

A Better World than this.

The Certain Salvation of the Christ-loving Soul.

Who passing through the valley of Baca make it a well ; the
rain also filleth the pools.—PSALM lxxxiv. 6.

How important to our soul's best interests that we should hear the Gospel preached ; for in this way God gives His blessing and feeds His sheep. To feed among the green pastures is refreshing, invigorating, and life-sustaining to the saints. The Gospel is bread to the hungry, drink to the thirsty ; and as we draw near to our eternal home, and feel our sinful self an increasing burden and weight, we are more and more conscious of its need,—the need of the reality and fullness of the precious Gospel of the blessed

God. "*Faith cometh by hearing,*" and by hearing the Word of God. What a poor world is this, were it our all! God be praised for a better one to come. I would not live always. Faith resting upon Christ's perfect obedience to the holy law of God,—and our acceptance is in His righteousness, and not our own, or anything we can do,—looks beyond the present. His precious blood cleanseth us from all sin, and the Holy Ghost within us prepares for the place Christ has prepared for us. Behold the certainty of the salvation of every poor sinner who comes as such to the Saviour! What a mercy to have such an escape from the wrath that is to come! "*Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O Lord, in the light of Thy countenance. In Thy name shall they rejoice all the day: and in Thy righteousness shall they be exalted.*" (Psalm lxxxix. 15, 16.)

A Parent's Heart. Grateful Memories of God.

Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him.—PSALM ciii. 13.

NO one knows a parent's heart *but a parent*. As such I look back with astonishment, and wonder how I have been upheld and brought through life with such a charge. Surely my eventful life would make a full volume of God's goodness and unfailing care. In all my wanderings He was ever around my path, never leaving nor forsaking me. When faint and weary in my task, He has strengthened; when cast down, He has lifted me up; when tried (and they were not a few), He has comforted. And now I can look back upon all the way He has led me, and see that it was

a right way, and though a thorny one it led to happiness, comfort, and consolation here, and to glory hereafter: the fulness of joy and glory that awaits all who are born of God. Seventy-one years ago I made my appearance in this world of sin and sorrow; and as truly as good old Israel testified so can I,—though few and evil have been my days, yet goodness and mercy have followed me throughout, and here I am to praise the Lord, and I trust shall praise Him in eternity for all the trials, sorrows, and troubles I have met with in the way. “*It is good for me that I have been afflicted.*” Each one has come with a message from God to my soul; and it is a mercy that, as through much tribulation we must enter the kingdom, our heavenly Father chooses what that tribulation shall be. Young Christians do not like to think of this, nor did I myself; but if we knew and loved Jesus better we could safely leave all in His hands, believing that He would lay no more

upon us than He could support us under, and bless to us too. Such is the goodness, tenderness, and faithfulness of that God whom we serve.



New Year Thoughts and Benedictions.

Thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord Thy God led thee.—DEUT. viii. 2.

THIS will greet you on New Year's morning. It comes with a mother's prayer, that a good and gracious God may abundantly bless you with all spiritual blessing, fitting and preparing you for that better and more glorious inheritance which is kept in store for the saints in light. May you be found bound up in the bundle of eternal life, standing at the right hand of Christ in that great day when He comes to make up His jewels, washed in His blood and clothed with His righteousness, transformed into the perfect image of God. Be this your chief concern through life; all else in comparison is dung and dross beneath

your feet. This, and this only, is the one thing needful. Upon reviewing the past year we have much to lament and mourn over. Many opportunities lost of doing good to poor sinners travelling to eternity. To feed and clothe them merely is poverty itself, if their immortal souls are not fed and clothed. How often, too, have we forgotten Him who bore our sins, and paid the mighty debt we owed to justice. How little love have we felt, and how much worldliness have we shown. How much unfaithfulness to our own souls and to the souls of others. And yet, with all this, pardoned, beloved of God, and completely justified and accepted in Christ Jesus. Oh for a heart to love Him more and to serve Him better! Let this be our mutual and daily prayer.

The Folly of Postponing Preparation for Death until a Dying Hour.

I also will laugh at your calamity ; I will mock when your fear cometh ; when your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind ; when distress and anguish cometh upon you.—PROV. i. 26, 27.

THERE was very little to hope in ——'s death. And although it is written that, "*Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved,*" it is also written, "*Not every one who says, Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven.*" How solemn, too, the words, "*They shall call upon Me, but I will not answer ; they shall seek Me early, but they shall not find Me : for they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord.*" We must leave it until the great

day of account. God is infinite in mercy, and we may hope. But what a sad thing to leave the most important of all important things to a dying hour! Life eternal is before us. Jesus invites sinners to come to Him, that they might receive it. Then how justly will they be condemned who do not and will not come. Many will plead in that day, "*We have done many things in Thy name;*" to whom Christ will say, "*Depart! I know you not.*" O trifle not with eternity!



God knows our Trials. The Widow Comforted.

I know their sorrows.—EXODUS iii. 7.

THE Lord knows the why and the wherefore of the sore and deep trials of those who are as dear to Him as the apple of His eye. In all our afflictions He is afflicted, and He appoints all our sorrows. Let us not, then, judge Him after the flesh. What we know not now, we shall know hereafter. May we ever feel that He is with us, reconciling us to all His varied dispensations. Could there be tears in heaven we should weep at the recollection of the little faith we had in Him here below. God is educating us for glory: training us lovingly, wisely, righteously for our exalted position in His kingdom above. In a little while we leave a world lying in wicked-

ness, for endless glory and ever increasing happiness. Why do God's saints have so little enjoyment here? Because they live so little upon, and walk so little with, Jesus. He is now your Husband, and the Father of your fatherless ones. Go to Him for all you need. Sit not down and wonder what you shall do, but at once uplift your heart to Him, and He will be your Counsellor and Guide. A thought, a sigh, a glance can reach the heart of Christ, whether from the midst of company, or alone by the way-side. "*Lo, I am with you alway!*"



The Sunny Side of Glory.
Earth Fading: Heaven Everything.

OH that believers lived more in the sunshine of their coming glory! How few we meet with who are travelling with the sweet anticipation of home. Strangers here, the present not our rest, and the path thorny, we yet can enjoy some glimpses of the *realities* which are before us. As the body fails, and memory fails, and all things else fail, hope brightens, and the prospect of seeing that face once so marred with sorrow, but now arrayed in glory and ineffable beauty, becomes more real. The world, which is passing away, is not worth a thought, and the Lord, in compassion to us, will make it a wilderness. Live up to your high and holy calling, and be assured that your pathway to heaven will

er brighter. " *The path of the just is as shining light, that shineth more and more the perfect day.*" " *Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.*"



Acquaintance with God. Faultless in Heaven.
Solemn Obligation to Holiness of Life.

Acquaint now thyself with Him, and be at peace : thereby
good shall come unto thee.—JOB xxii. 21.

THE great end and purpose of God in all His dealings in our eventful lives, is to bring us to a better acquaintance with Himself. We are prone to be so occupied, nay engrossed, with earthly things as, in a measure, to lose sight of Him; and then we necessarily subject ourselves to the discipline of the covenant. In this light we can look back and see why we have been so often tried and chastened; and though bitter, it has been the chastening of love. It was designed to restore our wanderings, to recall our truant hearts, for it is with the *heart* God has to do. And when we

reflect what it cost Jesus to stand in the gap, to bear our sins, and pay to the last mite the penalty of our transgressions, what do we not owe Him? Had we ten thousand hearts, would we not give them all to Him? And yet He had no spot for His weary head. The dark, dreary mountain His pillow, and the earth His resting place. Who can estimate the price of our salvation: what it cost Him to bring us to glory? He will present us *faultless* before His Father's face, in that glory of which we can at present form but little idea. We shall stand complete in Him. What manner of persons ought we to be in all holy conversation and godliness? While travelling through a tempting world, and bearing about us a body of sin, we require constant communications from the Fountain-head; and it will be our wisdom to keep closely there, living upon, and going to, Him for fresh supplies; feeling the full force of His own words, "*Without Me ye can do nothing.*" There is

enough in ourselves to cause us to go weeping all the way ; but in the fulness of Christ—in the blood that cleanses—in the Spirit that sanctifies—in the grace that upholds—in the wisdom that directs—and in the boundless, matchless love that pardons, there is sufficient to make us go on our way rejoicing. There is nothing in the religion of the Bible to inflate the sinner, but everything to lay him low, and keep him humble. “*Lord, Thou hast heard the desire of the humble ; Thou wilt prepare their heart, Thou wilt cause Thine ear to hear.*”




Domestic Trial left with God.
Nothing too hard for Him. Earthly Sorrow,
a Spiritual Harvest.

Casting all your care upon Him ; for He careth for you.—

I PETER v. 7.

I WOULD have you leave your husband in God's hand. Prayer is now your strong-hold. God is all-sufficient. We can form but a faint idea of the power which the feeblest saint has with God *in prayer*. "*Command ye Me,*" says God. And Christ says, "*Ask anything in My name, and I will do it.*" You are wanting for him just the very thing that Jesus came into the world to do,—*to save a sinner*. Dear old Mr. Newton used to say that, "God often sent a little trial to prevent a greater." Now, although your present trial is not a little one,

yet it might be greater. Had God cut off your husband in the midst of sin, without hope, *that* would have been a greater sorrow. But now you have hope. He is still alive, and Jesus, the compassionate Son of God, says, "*Is there anything too hard for Me?*" Yes, you will reply, "but he has been such a sinner." And so was Manasseh, and yet God gave him repentance. So was Mary Magdalene, and yet Christ saved her. And so was Saul of Tarsus, and yet Jesus met him in his satanic madness, and saved him. Let Him take His own way to humble him, to lay him low in the dust, and bring him to His feet. All you have to do is to give yourself to prayer. This may be to your own soul a harvest-time of spiritual blessing. God does nothing in vain as it respects His own blood-bought people.



Praise for Converting Grace.
Each Christian has Work for God. The Culture of
the Christian Graces.

Son, go work to-day in my vineyard.—MATT. xxi. 28.

WHAT a mercy that the Lord has called us, and translated us out of Satan's kingdom into the kingdom of His own dear Son. Blessed, for ever blessed, be His adorable name for all His goodness to us. And bless Him for all the trials and tribulations through which we have passed. They have been all *needful*; not one too many, and all sent in love to our souls. Let us press forward, with faith's eye upon the inheritance, where the Lord waits to meet us with a "*Well done, good and faithful servant.*" We have each our own good work for the Lord. "*To every man his*

work." Each one has his peculiar and proper gift, and the command is, "*Occupy till I come.*" And we have but to inquire of Jesus to know our appointed work, and to fit us for it. "*We serve the Lord Christ.*" We belong not to ourselves, but are bought with a price. Therefore we are daily to inquire, "*Lord, what wouldst Thou have me to do?*" It is well for us to know our proper gift, that we may not obtrude upon another's province, and our own work prove unprofitable. Oh to come to Him as little children for all we need, for body and for soul, for time and for eternity! Let every hour be a fresh set-out for eternity. Let our armour grow brighter, for our enemies, both within and without, are ever on the alert, and we must cling close to our great and victorious Leader, who holds them all in His power. Every stage of our present journey is important. According to our advance in the divine life, in proportion to our present knowledge of Christ and our experience of His presence,

will be the measure of our glory hereafter. "*Be it according to your faith.*" Let us praise God for all—the bitter, the sweet,—for all is designed to train and mature us for the place Christ has gone to take possession of for us. And when we reach it we shall then see what an honour our Father put upon us in placing us in such circumstances as brought our faith into exercise, and enabled us to trust in Him. He brings His saints often in peculiar positions, just to call forth the graces of His Spirit ; and thereby enables them to see plainly their election of God. God as a Sovereign executes His great decrees, which are from everlasting to everlasting.



**Loneliness Cheered. A Waiting Time, a Sowing Time.
Following, not going before, the Lord.**

And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me.—
JOHN xvi. 32.

I FEEL for your loneliness; but I would have you live on such familiar terms with Jesus, your best Friend—though out of sight now—that you can confidently repose in His hand and heart, and see the way He would have you take. He, your Guide and Counsellor, is all-sufficient for your difficult path. Perhaps He may keep you waiting to try your faith awhile. Be of good courage, and walk closely with Him, and He will show you what He would have you to do. Our *waiting* time is often the Lord's *sowing* time. We must reap some good while kept waiting to know what His will is concerning us. The Lord will have His people near to Himself. Why

does He send trials, but that we may be better acquainted with Him, our best Friend on earth and in heaven. How much discipline we require to bring us to His feet, and in child-like faith to look to Him to do all for us. O pray: *pray* on! Jesus will listen to your petition, bowing His loving ear to hear all that you have to say to Him. But wait patiently, and see what are the Lord's designs. Let Him make the first move in the way He would have you walk, in the thing He would have you do. This is a world of tribulation. It was so to God's dear Son; and shall we seek that it shall be anything else to us? Rest in His love, with all your doubts, conflicts, and fears, and no good thing will He withhold from you. There is a *needs-be* for all the trials that we have. When He places us in the furnace, He enters into it with us. We can never be separated from Christ, in life, in death, or in eternity: for Christ and we are ONE.

The Cross before the Crown.
The Character of God learnt in Trial.
The Power of Christ to Save.

If we suffer, we shall also reign with Him.—2 TIM. ii. 12.

Is there a candidate for a crown of glory who is not *tried*? Jesus was a *tried* Stone. He passed through deep, overwhelming tribulation and sorrow, to save us from eternal woe. And shall we shrink to taste a little of the bitter waters, while we pass to the glory which awaits us? He has placed you for a while in the furnace, but not a hair of your head shall be hurt. Only trust Him. This is all that He requests of you. He wants you to prove that He is all He has promised, that He is all that He says He is. Allow not the enemy just now to harass you with

the thought, that you are not the Lord's because all this evil has befallen you. This very chastening is a proof of your adoption, without which we should be bastards, and not sons. The Saviour loves you too dearly to lay upon you one stroke more than is needful for your soul's best interests. A life of faith in God is the happiest and holiest life on earth. It brings us into an acquaintance with the real character of God, from whom we walk at too great a distance. There is no part of God's truth that will be of any practical value to us but as it is wrought in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, and brought out in our lives by God's providence. Our God knows what dull scholars we are, and takes such means as will secure our greatest knowledge and promote our greatest usefulness. If we pause to think what steps we had best take in such and such circumstances, and then go to the Lord, it is most likely we shall be left to take our own way. But let us go to Him first,

with the prayer, "Lord, now direct : Lord, now give me wisdom : Lord, now lead me!" These simple, heaven-sent breathings God will hear and answer ; and so shall the life of God in our soul be invigorated, and we shall in this school of trial and of faith learn lessons taught us no where else. Your position now is just to wait upon God in faith, for nothing is too hard for Him to do. What Jesus did on earth, He has the power to do in heaven. May the Lord comfort and strengthen you, and make all things work together for your soul's best interests and His own glory.



Temporal Things Contrasted with Spiritual.
A Heavenly Life not Unfitting for Earthly Duty.
Commending the Gospel by a Holy Walk.

We look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen : for the things which are seen are temporal ; but the things which are not seen are eternal.—2 COR. iv. 18.

How poor and contemptible are the riches, and distinctions, and glory of this world, when compared with the rich and enduring blessings of the “glorious Gospel of the blessed God,” and the prospect that awaits the Christian. Even at its longest period life is but a dream, a vapour that appeareth for a little while, and then passes away. The continuous voice of Jesus to us is, “*Rise up my love, my fair one, and come away.*” How unwise, then, so to encircle ourselves with earth, as to permit our

hearts to be entangled with the trifles of time, thus keeping us from the sweet and holy enjoyment of eternal realities. Our only help is prayer, much prayer; for the Holy Spirit to keep us near to Jesus, that we may put our hand, as it were, in His hand, and thus travel through the wilderness, kept from the beasts of prey we meet with in our path. To walk with God here is our highest privilege, and one sweet faith's view of our personal interest in Christ of more value than the crown of the universe. While thus seeking to live above the world, we must remember that we have all our individual and relative duties to perform; but the greatest and holiest is, to commend the Gospel by our upright, holy walk, and in entreating all around us to come with us that we may do them good. Let us be earnest with God for much of the Spirit's power in our souls; for "*the diligent soul shall be made fat.*"

A Dying World. The Whole Heart for Christ.
True Religion not Promotive of Melancholly.
Quite Ready to Depart.

I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith : henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day.—2 TIM. iv. 6, 7, 8.

WE live in a dying world, and "*we all do fade as a leaf*," but this should not distress us, for the sooner the believer departs, the sooner he is with the Lord, and his happiness complete. Only let us "*make our calling and election sure*;" and if unbelief invade, or Satan tempt us, let us betake ourselves at once to Jesus. We are not in a right position if we are without the sensible presence of the Lord.

Concerning this He is very jealous. If we can make ourselves happy and satisfied with the enjoyment of any earthly good or gift of His, apart from His felt presence, it is not pleasant to Christ. He must have our *whole* heart. The coldness toward us of one we love would distress us. So is it with the Lord. If, then, we discover coldness in our affections towards Him, let us at once go and tell Him, and He will warm them afresh with His own love—His precious love—that never varies, never chills. And let us not forget, too, that if we ever cherish any idol in our hearts, allowing the creature, however dear, to come between Christ and us, He will remove the idol out of the way, or make it a source of trouble and sorrow. I have read an account of ——'s death and state of mind. I trust she is with Christ, and then I shall see her again, in a new robe, clean and white. Oh for *that* day I am continually looking. There is a sweet book I would wish you to

read, entitled "The Night of weeping;" and another by the same author, entitled, "The Morning of Joy."* Both are excellent. Obtain them: they are sweetly encouraging. I can truly say, the time will not be long ere we shall enter into the joy of the "morning!" I may be there to welcome you home, as there are many now to welcome me. It is encouraging to think of these things. My mind is just now much absorbed with them and why should it not be so with all God's people? It is a false idea that it produces melancholly. If we say so it is an evidence that all is not right with us. There is something wrong, and we shall do well to go afresh to the Lord for His examination. Oh to be ready when the change comes: QUITE READY!

* Bonar.



THE following letter, addressed to her children, was found among MRS. WINSLOW'S papers after her decease. Although strictly of a domestic character, there is yet much in its holy breathings which may prove God's voice to other families. Influenced by this feeling, the EDITOR is constrained to append it to the volume, with the hope that thus she, being dead, may yet speak to many, with the loving, holy earnestness of a "Mother in Israel." It may be encouraging to add, that the prayers it contains have not been wholly unanswered.

A Mother's Voice from the Grave.

MY DEAREST CHILDREN,

IT pleased God, in His infinite wisdom and mercy, seventy-five years ago, to bring your mother into this sinful, try-

ing, and disappointing world. "Few and evil," as old Jacob said, "have been the days of my pilgrimage;" and yet I can add, "goodness and mercy, with all long-suffering patience, have followed me all my days," and to the present moment I am here to praise His holy name. I can trace God's gracious hand from the day of my birth to the present moment. His watchful providence was all around me, and even before I entered upon this poor earth, this vale of tears, it was. His most gracious design that I should be a *saved sinner*. Wondrous has been His love, and marvellous in my eyes; still have I to "sing of judgment and of mercy." Many trials, much of the discipline of the Covenant I needed, and my heavenly Father withheld not His parental rod. While one hand was laid heavily upon me, the other sustained and upheld me. All was designed in love to humble me, and to cause me to know Him "whom to know is life eternal."

I thank Him for all, not only on my own account, but on yours also. Great has been His mercy towards you. In the school of adversity were you trained. He watched over you in a strange land. He suffered no evil to overpower you. Where a mother's eye could not follow you, His blessed, loving, Fatherly eye was upon you. In the days of my deep sorrow you know that God gave me a promise. In the dark hours of the night, when sleep had forsaken my eyes, and my heart was overwhelmed with anxious care, then did He bow the heavens, and, in condescending mercy, spoke peace and consolation to my tried soul. He then, in that most blessed and eventful hour, promised to be a Father to my fatherless children, and to be my God. And O how He has fulfilled that promise! Who has supplied all your wants? Who has poured abundance into your lap? Has not God done it? Why where you not left destitute, and dependent

in a strange land? Who has the gold and silver at His command? Not you. Who has all hearts at His disposal? Not you. Who has preserved you, while crossing a mighty ocean, from a watery grave? Has not God been the Guide of your youth? Has He not watched over you by day and by night, by sea and by land? Has He not supplied all your wants? Dare not say, oh *dare* not say, "My talents, my industry, my exertions have gotten me these things." Oh *dare*, *dare* not say it! Give God the glory, and acknowledge it was Him, and Him alone. But what have been the returns? What have you done with what God has given you? He has poured richly into your lap, but what returns have you made for all His goodness to you? Have you made any? Have you laid out what He has given you to the glory of His blessed name? Have you remembered and acknowledged Him in all your ways? Have you gone to Him as your reconciled

Father in Christ Jesus? Do you know Him? Do you love Him—Oh, do you *love* Him who has been so good to you, watching over you by day and by night! *Do you love Him?* I fear for some of you. My heart trembles for you. I mourn over you. I pray for you. I acknowledge your ingratitude, and bewail before Him your sins. How often do I say, "Spare them, O Lord, and come not into judgment with them." You know not, nor ever will know until you enter eternity, the ten thousand petitions that have gone up, and are still going up for your souls, your never dying souls. I thank God for some that, I trust, have fled to Jesus and are saved. For these I pray constantly that they may not only hold fast what they do know, but that they may increase in love, and sweet and holy obedience. But my soul is often, oh how often, cast down on account of others. O eternity, eternity can alone declare to you the prayers offered up, and the

tears that have been shed by your anxious mother for your precious and immortal souls. Not a day passes but I bring you before the Lord. A soul lost, or a soul saved! A little while and I pass away. My time is shortening. You will not long have a praying mother: heaven is my home. Shall I meet you there? Will there be one missing? God forbid! Oh did you know how my soul yearns over you! how often I weep before the Lord and confess your base ingratitude to the best of Friends, the best of Fathers. Did He not say He would be a Father to you? Has He not fulfilled that promise? What returns have you made? Search, oh search your hearts, and see how matters stand between you and a heart-searching God. God is not mocked. A little while and you will stand in His presence. A few years, months, perhaps days, and you stand face to face before a holy, holy Lord God. Trifle not with your precious souls,

trifle not with God. And you, my beloved children, who do know Jesus as your Elder Brother, hold fast that you have received, and let no man take your crown. Aim to walk humbly and closely with God. Live for God, labour for Christ, live for eternity; and when I am called hence, let me have the unspeakable comfort of knowing we shall meet again in glory, to part no more for ever. May the Lord, in His infinite tender mercy, bless you all, is the daily prayer of,

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